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Speeding crackdown to be police priority, orders Straw

By Arthur Leathley
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are to be told to take tough action against motorists driving too fast as part of a government crackdown on speeding.

Ministers will insist on the strict enforcement of speed limits, particularly the 30mph limit, as part of an initiative launched today to reduce the number of annual road deaths by a third.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will announce new national objectives for police forces in November which are expected to require them to make the anti-speeding initiative a priority.

Another option being considered is to reduce speed limits as part of the Government's review of roads policy, to be completed next spring.

Ministers are watching 300 trial schemes, mainly near schools, where the limit has been reduced from 30mph to 20mph. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is also supporting the campaign to tackle traffic crime.

Ministers are determined to change public attitudes and make speeding socially unacceptable in the same way that drink-driving has become unacceptable over the past 20 years. They are concerned

that accidents are ten times more likely on urban streets than on motorways but that policing has not fully reflected the risk factor.

A third of road deaths last year were attributed to speeding and enforcement of the present limits is seen as the crucial weapon in a campaign aimed at changing public attitudes.

A target to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries by a third by the year 2000 was met this

year, mainly through the success of campaigns against drink-driving, but ministers are alarmed that speeding is claiming an increasing proportion of lives. Twenty years ago, less than a quarter of road deaths was attributed to speeding.

Transport ministers will announce today a £3.5 million "Kill Your Speed" advertising campaign, including film of children playing taken before they were killed in road accidents. The seven-week tel-

evision and radio campaign will include further announcements of action to curb excessive speed.

Ministers say that the sharp drop in the number of road deaths from 5,600 15 years ago to 3,598 last year has been caused mainly by the compulsory wearing of seat-belts, better car design and the effectiveness of drink-driving laws. However, they believe that better information on the effects of speeding will bring about improved

safety. They argue that closer assessment of poor accident rates will prompt councils to introduce traffic safety measures such as speed humps and more cycle paths.

Baroness Hayman, the Road Safety Minister, will announce today plans to set new national and local targets to reduce road deaths and serious injuries. They are expected to define more clearly the action that police and other traffic authorities should take.

Palace counters funeral rift 'lies'

By Emma Wilkins and Philip Webster

THE QUEEN mounted a strong counter-attack yesterday against a wave of speculation that the Royal Family had been at odds since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

She authorised Buckingham Palace to issue a rare and outspoken statement cataloguing a flood of "inaccurate and untrue" stories about the funeral preparations.

Those included claims that the Prince of Wales, backed by the Prime Minister, had persuaded the Queen to break with protocol and broadcast to the nation on the eve of the funeral; that there was a rift between the Royal Family and the Spencer family; and that the Prince had a ferocious row with the Queen's top aide.

The point-by-point rebuttal came out of the blue and appeared to be the start of a fightback by the Monarchy against the damage it fears it has suffered since the Princess's death. The Queen has already said that she is ready to learn the lessons from the life of the Princess and the reaction to her death.

But the Royal Family's immediate priority is to halt speculation of a rift between Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace, where the Prince of Wales's office is based, and to quash the idea that he is keener than the Queen on modernising the monarchy. The message from the Palace was clearly intended to be that the Queen remains very much in charge.

Downing Street was aware that the Palace intended to put out its statement and was sent a copy in advance as a courtesy, but there was no consultation over its contents.

It said: "In the aftermath of the tragic death of the Princess of Wales there has been a wave of speculation and inaccurate stories about the events leading up to, and subsequent to, the funeral. These stories need to be corrected."

It added that the Queen was responsible for her own decisions in the week after the Princess's death. It had been suggested that the Prime Minister and Prince of Wales pressured her to rewrite the royal rule book and fly a flag at half mast over Buckingham Palace. That interpretation was wrong, the Palace said.

"The Queen took decisions in close consultation with the Prince of Wales at Balmoral. Her advisers were in close touch with those of the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister. Suggestions that pressure had to be exerted on the Queen by anyone, including the Prince of Wales, are false."

"As the Queen said in her broadcast, she believes there are lessons to be drawn from the life of the Princess and the public reaction to it. As for lessons for the Palace, the Queen's advisers are, of course, working closely with the Prince of Wales's office."

It is understood that the statement was prompted by reports over the weekend that the Prince was studying pro-

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Mark Knopfler, left, Sir Paul McCartney, Sir George Martin, organiser of the charity rock concert *Music for Montserrat*, and Sting before last night's performance in aid of the volcano-stricken Caribbean island in the Royal Albert Hall.

The ageing stars, a far cry from the

boys who were the fresh-faced rockers of the sixties, were being joined by Eric Clapton and Phil Collins to form a powerful if wrinkle-covered band to raise funds for those rendered homeless by the continuing eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano (Kathryn Knight writes). Between them, the

five, who have a combined worth of £750 million and have sold about as many records, planned to play a medley of Beatles classics at the end of the sell-out concert.

Sir Paul, 55, was also to perform a solo rendition of the Beatles' hit *Yesterday*, and Elton John, 50, was to

join the team for the finale, a performance of *Hey Jude*, another Beatles favourite.

Sir George, the Beatles' producer, has worked with many of the singers at his recording studio on Montserrat and flew in Arrow, a native calypso star, to open the evening.

Ulster peace talks open without Unionist parties

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS led Sinn Féin into direct talks with the British Government at Stormont yesterday, but the first day of what were supposed to be all-party peace negotiations passed with not one of the Unionist or loyalist parties present.

Much of the day's action centred not on the talks at all, but on hectic efforts to coax the Ulster Unionist Party to Stormont for direct or indirect negotiations. Last night the prospects of that happening, perhaps as early as today, looked good.

Before most people had even woken up the British and Irish Prime Ministers issued a joint statement designed to reassure the UUP on the contentious issues of IRA disarmament and consent. At mid-morning Paul Murphy, the political development minister, visited the UUP's Belfast headquarters, and last night George Mitchell, the American chairman of the talks, met David Trimble, the UUP leader, in Belfast's Europa hotel.

Mr Trimble said he was "encouraged" by the Prime Ministers' statements and said the UUP intended to join the negotiations "as soon as possible" if his meeting with Mr Mitchell went well. Mr Mitchell emerged from that meeting unable to announce an agreement but sounding optimistic.

The principal outstanding issue is the UUP's insistence that some IRA dearmament of arms take place during the negotiations. Mr Mitchell was apparently trying to persuade Mr Trimble to leave the matter in the hands of an international body on decommissioning being set up by the British and Irish Governments. Procedural rules prevent the full-scale negotiations from officially beginning until there is agreement on this matter.

"Obviously if there were no stumbling blocks we would all be [at Stormont] now," said Mr Mitchell. "But I am impressed by the manner in which all participants are working in a constructive way and I hope we can move the process forward." The loyalist Ulster Democratic and Progressive Unionist parties also spent the day in talks before deciding whether to attend the negotiations. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and the UK Unionist Party have boycotted the whole process.

Other delegations, meanwhile, gathered at Stormont for negotiations that Mr Adams said could mark "the beginning of the end of the conflict on this island". However, Mr Adams was soon attacked by the British and Irish Governments and other parties over the IRA's disavowal last week of the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence.

Technically the full-scale negotiations did not begin as scheduled yesterday, and cannot do so until the impasse over decommissioning is resolved. But Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, told reporters: "This problem has been going on 800 years so you can understand an hour or two's delay."

Bhutto accounts frozen by Swiss

Swiss authorities have frozen bank accounts held by Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistani Prime Minister, and her mother and husband.

Miss Bhutto, whose government was dismissed last November, is visiting Dubai, where two of her three children are at school. The move was requested by the Pakistani Government and may be designed to ensure that she never regains power. Page 13

Newcastle FC chairman goes

Sir John Hall is to stand down as chairman of Newcastle United Football Club on December 1.

Sir John, 64, who has held the post for five and a half years, said he had honoured his commitments to the club and achieved his ambition in ensuring that it was once again a leading force in the land. Page 48

Batting on

County cricket rejected a change to a championship of two divisions. Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the board chairman, said that he was disappointed. Page 48

Literary recluse faces Booker shortlist limelight

By Daisy Alberg
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A RECLUSIVE Australian writer in her sixties has been hurled into the glare of publicity by having her novel shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Madeleine St John, whose publishers have struggled in vain to persuade her to be photographed or interviewed, reached the final six with her third novel *The Essence of The Thing*.

Little if anything is known about her,

beyond that she came to London in the early 1960s and lives alone in Notting Hill. She refuses to reveal even the most basic details of her life: her publishers, Fourth Estate, are unsure of her age and do not know whether she was married or had children. They tell the curious that she had a "sad childhood", used to work in a Kensington antiques shop, and once conducted an affair with an American academic.

Miss St John is joined on the shortlist by Arundhati Roy, of Delhi,

who attracted a record advance for her first novel, *The God of Small Things*. Another first novelist, Mick Jackson, was picked for *The Underground Man* to compete with Bernard MacLaverty's *Grace Notes*, Jim Crace's *Quarantine* and Tim Parks's *Europa*.

The prize has become synonymous with controversy, but Nicholas Clee, book news editor of *The Bookseller*, said: "I can't see anything about these books that will get anyone in a tizz."

The chairman of the judges is

Gillian Beer, professor of English literature and president of Clare College, Cambridge. She is joined by Jason Cowley of *The Times*, Jan Dalley of the *Independent* on Sunday and the novelists Rachel Billington and Dan Jacobson. The winner will be announced on October 14.

Readers can save £2 on any of the shortlisted titles by telephoning The Times Bookshop on 0990 134 459.

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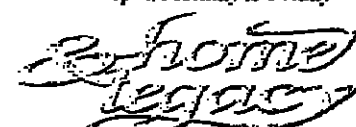
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Welsh rugby stars held after brawl in French bar

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THREE Welsh players were taken into custody last night after a furious bar brawl with their French opponents on Sunday night.

The fight between members of Pontypridd and Brive rugby teams erupted after an ill-tempered European Cup match in which two players were sent off. Up to 100 players and supporters were involved in the brawl, which left three French men nursing broken noses and another with a severely broken finger.

One witness claimed the fray took place outside the bar, with blood on the floor and bottles, chairs and glasses flying through the air. French police resorted to tear gas to bring the brawling players

under control. The affair brought widespread condemnation yesterday from rugby officials and Tony Banks, the Sports Minister.

Yesterday the Pontypridd players, Dale McIntosh, the hooker, Phil John, and a centre, Andre Bernard, were placed under formal legal investigation by Michel Robin, the Brive public prosecutor, on suspicion of "causing damage and violence". Two other Pontypridd players, Steve Lewis, a centre, and the Welshman Williams, a flanker, were released from police custody after questioning.

Both teams have accused the other of starting the fight in Le Touquet bar where the French team gathered for drinks after the match, which

they won by one point. The Welsh players claimed the fight started when they were hit by a flying bottle, but the French maintain Pontypridd were intent on revenge for their defeat.

The injured French players were named as Philippe Carbonneau, a scrum-half, and Christophe Lemaison and David Vendetti, both centres. Lemaison, who suffered a broken nose, said the Welsh players entered the bar at about 10.30pm. "Two of them opened up the hostilities. They pounced on Philippe Carbonneau."

The Welsh players were then reportedly ejected, but later returned and another fight began. "They smashed everything I have ever seen so scared in my life. We've been through a real night mare," Lemaison added.

The bar, owned by the former Brive player Jean-Marie Souhira, who suffers from leukaemia, was wrecked. Mr Banks called for strong action to be taken if it was proved that Pontypridd players had brought the game into disrepute. "The behaviour of sportsmen and women representing their clubs and country must be beyond reproach, both on and off the pitch."



Lemaison, left, and Carbonneau after the brawl

Official inquiries, page 48



Gillian Anderson, star of *The X-Files*, with her Emmy for best actress

British actors steal show at Emmy awards

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THIS year's Emmy awards for programmes shown on American television had a decidedly British tinge.

Prime Suspect 5: Errors of Judgment scooped its third Emmy as best mini-series, but Helen Mirren, its star, lost the best actress prize in the category to Alfre Woodard for *Miss Evers' Boys*.

Tracey Ullman, the British comedian who has lived in Hollywood for 14 years, won the best comedy series for *Tracey Takes On...*, beating powerful competition from the American comedies *Jay Leno*, *David Letterman*, *Bill Maher* and *Dennis Miller*.

"As the Spice Girls would say, 'Girl Power!' I beat the boys," Ullman proclaimed. "I want to join the Spice Girls as premenopausal Spice."

The award for best actress in a drama series went to Gillian Anderson, who was born in Chicago but grew up in North London, for her performance as FBI agent Dana Scully in search of the paranormal in *The X-Files*.

Dame Diana Rigg was named best supporting actress for her sinister housekeeper, Mrs Danvers, in the adaptation of *Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca*.

Michael Caine, nominated as best supporting actor for his portrayal of South Africa's former President, F.W. de Klerk, in *Mandela*, had his hopes dashed when the award went to Armand

Assante's performance in the gangster movie *Gotti*.

As the stars of the small screen turned out in force for the first time since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, organisers screened all 140 photographers in attendance to exclude aggressive paparazzi. Fran Drescher, star of *The Nanny* and a leading critic of the paparazzi, received a frosty reception as she stepped out of her limousine on to the red carpet, with photographers downing their cameras in protest.



Mirren: star of winning series *Prime Suspect*

Police driver in fatal crash avoids jail

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICE officer whose car went out of control, killing a schoolgirl passenger, was yesterday cleared of causing her death by dangerous driving.

PC Adrian Ward was found guilty of the lesser charge of careless driving and fined £500. He also faces the prospect of a civil action brought by the family of the victim, Shelley Simmonite, and an internal disciplinary hearing.

The PC, based in Sheffield, was taking the 15-year-old and her friend, Emma, Cubbin, to her parents' home for a formal cautioning after the pair had been arrested for shoplifting. Emma, also 15, had told Leeds Crown Court that on the motorway from Sheffield to her home near Rotherham the car touched 120 mph. She also claimed that the officer bragged about how he could go through red traffic lights.

On the brow of a hill the unmarked police Astra crossed the road and hit a van head on. Police experts estimated the car's speed at up to 70 mph in a 50 mph limit. Miss Simmonite died from multiple injuries. Ward was detained in hospital for eight days with injuries.

Louise Godfrey, QC, the Recorder of Leeds, told Ward that his driving had had terrible and tragic consequences. No sentence could bring back the life.

After the hearing Jane Horton, the family's lawyer, said: "Shelley's parents and brother Dale have been devastated by the death. They do not feel that the criminal trial and verdict have provided them with the answer and explanation needed or with justice."

American WPC 'driven out of Met by racism'

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE first Jewish-American woman to join the Metropolitan Police was called a "Yank" and "colonial" by her colleagues and driven from the force by "blind racism", an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Tamara Berton, 50, told the tribunal that she had dreamt of joining the British police and of how proud she had been stepping out in uniform on to the London streets as probationary officer PC 206AB in January 1995.

She said that rapidly soured for her as she was regarded as a "stereotypical, loud, brash American, a Yank and a colonial" by fellow officers at Belgravia police station. Mrs Berton, a divorced mother of one who lives in Soho, has dual American and British nationality. She is claiming unfair dismissal before the tribunal in Croydon, South London, on the ground of racial discrimination.

She said her first indication that she would be singled out for such treatment came after

a fortnight at Belgravia when Sergeant Russell Denton, her supervising officer, took her to one side and told her "your lips are too large to wear lipstick, they will stand out".

Mrs Berton, who has a postgraduate degree in criminal justice from Boston University and a degree in marine biology, said that over the next 18 months she was the subject of pranks and vandalism, and her work was constantly criticised by Sergeant Denton and Inspector Peter Brunswick.

Her handwriting came in for criticism and, as a left-handed person, her ricks were deemed to go the "wrong" way. She was also upbraided for using the American term "mug shot". Mrs Berton said good reports from others were deliberately suppressed. She was dismissed in June last year on the grounds that she was not likely to become "an efficient and well conducted constable".

Mrs Berton, who served as an auxiliary police officer in Boston, visited London in 1985 and inquired about joining the Metropolitan Police. She was rejected because she was not a British citizen. By 1992 qualified for citizenship and was accepted for training at Hendon Police College in June 1994.

Mrs Berton said she was put down relentlessly and she believed all good reports of her work were probably in a ghost file at New Scotland Yard. At a meeting with an assistant commissioner at which she was eventually sacked, a sealed letter of dismissal was already on his desk, she said. The hearing continues.



Berton: had dreamt of joining British police



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Indian restaurants may no longer be all the Raj

BY LIN JENKINS

INDIAN restaurants are being urged to declare independence from ubiquitous flock wallpaper, velvetine seats and names redolent of the dying days of empire.

The trade journal for the curry industry, says that names such as Last Days of the Raj, Bengal Lancer, Jewel in the Crown and Viceroy conjure images of colonialism which are inappropriate 50 years after British rule. Sticking to notions of the public's perception of colonial India is damaging the industry, says an editorial by Iqbal Wahhab, editor of *Tandoori*.

"Do they think that by bringing a theme of colonial India their customers will feel like kings?" he asks. "If so, they are mistaken. All

they think is that here is a corny interpretation of a part of British history that is best forgotten. At worst, they will take the view that if a colonial image is what the restaurant wishes, then they will oblige by treating the waiters like servants."

"When will we learn that India has moved on, that there is a free, modern India that we can talk of. When will we stop treating ourselves like second-class citizens and begin to walk tall?"

He praises a few of the newer London curry restaurants such as Soho Spice, Vana and Chor Bizarre which attract a cosmopolitan clientele. "They have no reason to drag up the sordid past. These are the restaurants of the future."

Mr Wahhab said yesterday: "Curry restaurants in the suburbs and towns need to be reinvented. They were devised by first-generation immigrants who built them on what the English thought of India. Their children are British, streetwise and forward looking, and they need to reflect that in their restaurants."

Pat Chapman, author of the *Good Curry Guide*, and editorial consultant on the magazine, said that customers object to change. "The Bombay Brasserie in London is probably the most famous Indian restaurant in Britain and its interior is vividly colonial. I have never heard tales of staff being abused by customers."

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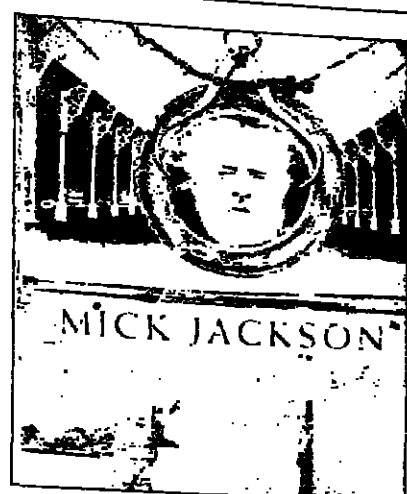
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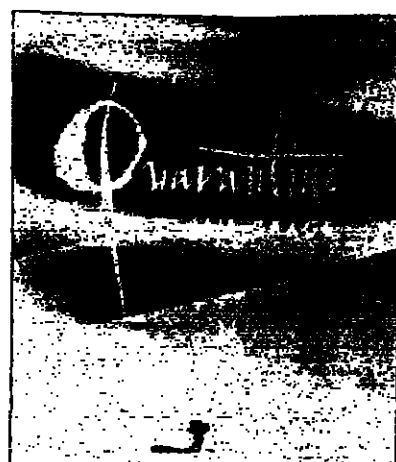
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Erica Wagner, Literary Editor, profiles shortlisted entries for the Booker Prize



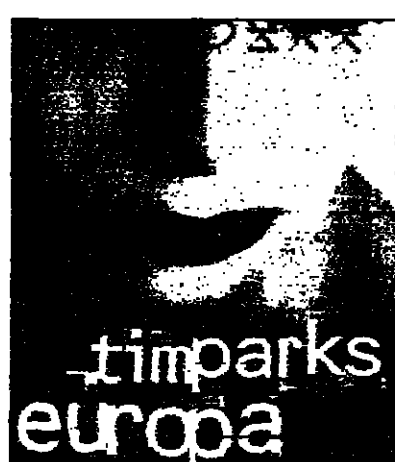
THE UNDERGROUND MAN, by Mick Jackson (Picador, £15.99): the 5th Duke of Portland really did build a network of mysterious tunnels under his Nottinghamshire estate. Mick Jackson, born in Lancashire in 1960, has based his first novel upon this 19th-century figure. William John Cavendish-Bentinck-Scott digs into his past as he digs into the ground, searching for the key to his disquiet. This intriguing novel chronicles his obsessions and observations; Jackson has created not a pastiche of Victorian literature but something more akin to Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast*: a world unto itself. Odds (William Hill): 6-1



QUARANTINE, by Jim Crace (Viking, £16.99): this year two novelists have attempted a reworking of the gospels: Norman Mailer and Jim Crace. Crace's powerful fiction leads the reader into the heat of the Holy Land's desert in the company of five pilgrims intent on making a fast. One of them, a man from Galilee, seems possessed of the miraculous ability to heal the sick. Crace's Jesus transforms the greedy merchant whom he cures and then seems to transform death itself. Crace is now at work on a novel called *Being Dead* — a visceral writer, his work evoking landscape in a manner similar to that of William Golding. Odds: 3-1



GRACE NOTES, by Bernard MacLaverty (Cape, £14.99): MacLaverty was born in Belfast in 1942. This is his first novel since *Cal* (1983). As the book opens, Catherine McKenna, a composer, is returning home from Glasgow to Belfast to bury her father. As it closes, she hears the first performance of her symphony, *Vernicle* — the name given to a token worn by pilgrims. The novel is a moving record of her emotional journey as she comes to terms with the loss of love, the birth of her child and her passage to adulthood. Its language suffused with the patterns of music that fill Catherine's mind, this is a powerful, lyrical book. Odds: 2-1 fav



EUROPA, by Tim Parks (Secker and Warburg, £9.99): Parks sets his work on the road when he puts a group of language lecturers on a coach from Milan to Strasbourg to petition the European Parliament for employment rights. Jeremy Marlowe, the novel's British narrator, is officially part of the deputation, but unofficially he is on the trip to feed his romantic obsession for a French colleague for whom he left his wife and daughter. Parks turns a sharp eye on love and loss, with the rolling coach as a plush container for the narrator's regrets and longings. It is a novel distinguished by mordant wit and elegant observation. Odds: 5-1



THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS, by Arundhati Roy (Flamingo, £15.99): Roy's first novel has caused excitement since her British agent read her manuscript and called it a masterpiece. A bidding war secured more than £1 million in advances for the 37-year-old writer. In her native India, the caste-breaking love scene between a Christian woman and an outcast Hindu has provoked an obscenity trial. The action concerns the drowning of an Anglo-Indian girl and the romance of her cousins' mother with an untouchable. The novel is distinguished by voluptuous language and cinematic timeshifts. Odds: 7-2



THE ESSENCE OF THE THING, by Madeleine St John (Fourth Estate, £9.99): St John's third novel is, on the surface, a conventional tale of a romance gone wrong. Nicola has lived with Jonathan for six years: one day she pops out to buy a packet of cigarettes and is informed upon her return that their relationship is over. What follows is her coming to terms with life. St John, born in Australia but now living in London, has a strong sense of social comedy, much of it at the expense of middle-class manners and mores. Her novel picks through the detritus of a relationship to try to discover the quality her title suggests. Odds: 9-2

Royal Family is irrelevant, says new history book

By JOANNA BAILE

A NEW book on the history of Britain has described the Royal Family as increasingly irrelevant and dismissed the Empire as little more than a setting for the film industry. The *Oxford Companion to British History*, published yesterday by Oxford University Press, criticises leading politicians and paints a damning picture of the Army, the Secret Service and famous figures from the more distant past. It was written by 100 leading history academics mainly from British universities, although some are from the United States, Canada and the United Arab Emirates. They were chosen by John Cannon, Professor Emeritus at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, for their expertise. The book describes Baroness Thatcher as "overbearing and shrill" and the late John Smith as much respected but "not perhaps as good as he was painted". George Brown is labelled "a political irrelevance" and Ted Heath's Government "a failure".

Brendan Smith, lecturer in history at Bristol University, said: "It sounds like a very good undergraduate essay that's trying to shock but I wouldn't give it a first. 'It sounds like a relentless attempt to shock at the expense of any sort of analysis. It might provoke initial interest but that's as far as it goes.' Anthony Howe, senior lecturer in International History at the London School of Economics, said: "Some of the judgments are clearly impressionistic, rather than giving a measured appreciation. For example, to dismiss Thatcher in that way is a partisan judgment because there are others who would emphasise the positive aspects of Thatcherism." Only three 20th-century Prime Ministers emerge from the volume unscathed: Churchill is described as Britain's greatest Prime Minister. Attlee as the most successful of peacetime leaders and Lloyd

George is credited with having had the greatest impact on British public life. The book attacks the Royal Family for being as confused as their subjects and in danger, not merely of being left behind, but of seeming increasingly irrelevant. It says that the Empire did not profit Britain as much as once thought but "provided the British film industry, while it lasted, with some splendid locations and plots". The Army is described as "ill-equipped to cope with changes in the nature of warfare or of Britain's role in the world, socially reactionary and badly in need of reform". The Secret Service has made "some terrible errors" and its achievements have been "mixed". A spokesman for Oxford University Press said: "This is a dramatic reinterpretation of British history. It sheds new light on many aspects of life, including frank and cutting reappraisals of Establishment institutions and people."



Cardinal Hume at the launch in London yesterday of his book and video

Cardinal hides and seeks God's truth

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

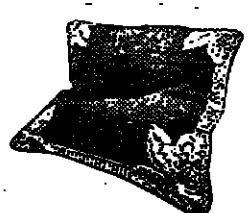
THE Archbishop of Westminster has turned a game of hide-and-seek played with two children into a spiritual storybook modelled on Alice's *Adventures in Wonderland*. Basil in *Blunderland* describes Cardinal Basil Hume's meditations as he hunts for and hides from the children in a larder, behind a clock, in a cupboard and under a piano. The 74-year-old cardinal has until now kept his lighter, more humorous side guarded from all but a few, but *Basil in Blunderland* depicts him in childlike, playful mood. The book was inspired by a holiday with a family in Invernesshire in 1979. Kate, aged about nine, and her younger brother, Barney, ask the cardinal to play hide-and-seek with them. He decides to play but, as a Benedictine monk, has to do his required half-hour meditation along the way. "The hiding places suggested thoughts about the spiritual life," he says. In the video accompanying the book, the cardinal plays himself as he runs from room to room, chasing or being chased by Kate and Barney, played by child actors. In the game of sardines: He is depicted scoffing biscuits in the larder with Barney as they wait to be discovered by Kate, and hiding in a stair cupboard. In the larder, he meditates on whether eating the food would be an act of stealing, even if nobody except God could see. "God is not the kind of

person who is watching you all the time to catch you out," he says. Hiding with Barney beside a telephone, he ponders on prayers which, like telephone calls, can seem to go unanswered. "God answers prayers in His way and not in ours," he says. Finally, when one of the children falls and grazes a knee, the cardinal, hiding beside a medicine chest, meditates on the meaning of sickness, suffering and death. All profits will go to charity, with profits from a limited edition including a meditation on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales going to the fund set up in her memory. *Basil in Blunderland* (Darton, Longman & Todd; book £7.95, video £14.99)



Basil in *Blunderland*: the cover of the Archbishop's video

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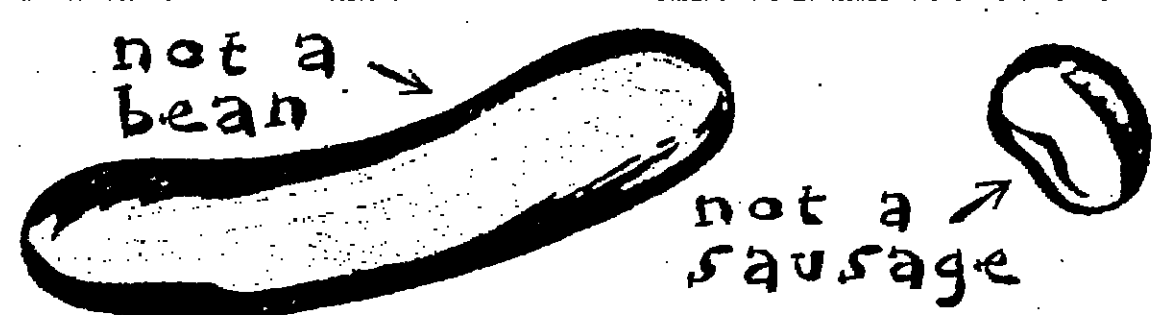
Radio 3 offers audience sweet sound of silence

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

RADIO 3 has unwrapped a new weapon in the war against members of the audience who perform sweet-wrapper solos during live recordings: the rustle-free cough lozenge. The throat sweets, in waxed paper wrappers, are being distributed at the start of concerts being broadcast live. BBC trials during the summer were so successful that they are being distributed free for all live recordings. Along with bleeping wrist-watches, mobile phones and the hearing aid feedback solo, rustling wrappers are one of the bane of the sound recordist's life. Ironically, many of the unwrappers have brought the sweets to stop them coughing at the wrong moment. The rustle-free sweets were thought up by Radio 3's marketing manager, James Pestell, who was originally looking for a way of spreading the station's name. He said: "It was intended as a marketing tool to emphasise Radio 3's commitment to live recordings, but they have been so popular that they are now going to be standard issue at all our concerts. 'People seem to regard them as a souvenir and take away a handful or two, but they serve a serious purpose. They are basic menthol-based cough sweets and have quite a kick. There is no excuse for coughing when you have one in your mouth.' Rustle-free lozenges will be offered to audiences who turn up to hear Friday's perfor-

mance of Prokofiev's Sonata No 6 and Beethoven's *Appassionata* at the St George's Music Hall in Bristol which are being recorded. Suzanne Clatworthy, administrator of St George's, which has particularly sensitive acoustics, said: "We want people to come and enjoy the music, but not to ruin what they come to hear. If a concert is being broadcast live it is essential that the audience doesn't rustle throughout. 'If a pianist has been working up to the highlight of a piece for 15 minutes, that moment can be ruined by someone coughing or rustling. Some people think that, if the music has come to a louder piece, it is all right to cough. But everyone uses the same opportunity and so it can become a problem.' The makers of the rustle-free wrappers refused yesterday to divulge the secret process involved. Martin Howitt, managing director of Grantham Manufacturing Ltd in Lincolnshire, said: "We came up with a special paper which is waxed and has a special ingredient to reduce the noise as well. 'That ingredient, factor X, comes into play between printing and waxing the paper. This means that it doesn't rustle like plastic. Some customers like the noise of wrappers and ask us for more noise. This was one of the few times we have been asked for silence.'"

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET



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Loch Lomond to be first Scottish national park

By Shirley English

SCOTLAND'S first national park, covering Loch Lomond and The Trossachs, is to be established by a newly formed Scottish parliament early in the next millennium, it was announced yesterday.

The government pledge comes almost 50 years after national parks were introduced in England and Wales and aims to close "a major gap" in the conservation of places of outstanding natural beauty and importance north of the border.

Announcing the plans yesterday, Donald Dewar, Scottish Secretary, said the Scottish version of the national park would not be a direct import of the English and Welsh models, but would be "designed to meet the particular needs of Scotland".

"I see National Parks here as integrating economic development with the proper protection of the natural heritage. We are looking for a sustainable approach where the requirements of economic and social development are balanced with those of conservation," he said.

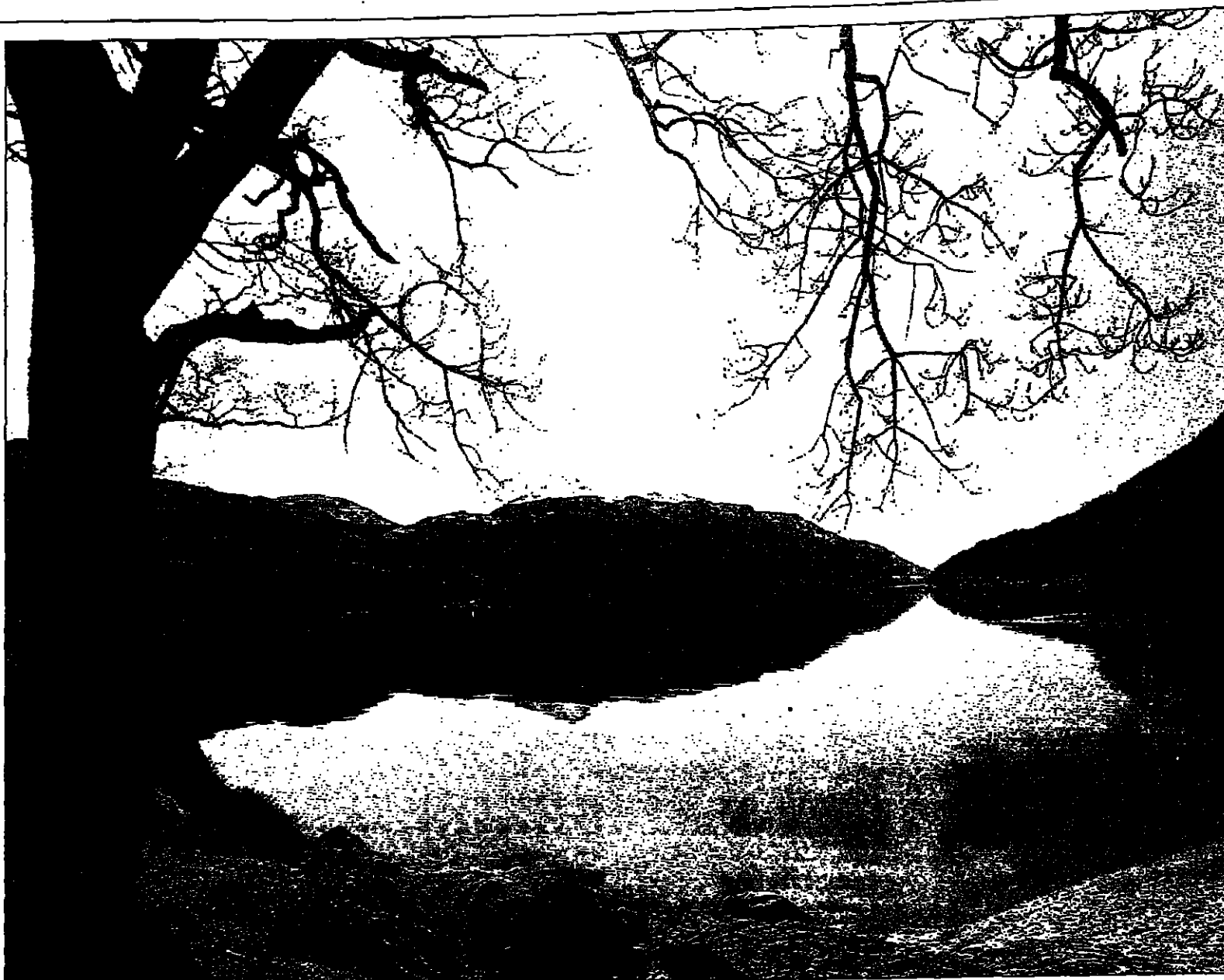
Scottish Natural Heritage, the government conservation body, will now identify other

areas in Scotland that may benefit from national park status and draw up proposals with local authorities. The Cairngorms are likely to be added to the list.

Yesterday Malcolm Payne, 64, of the Scottish Council for National Parks, said: "This is what we have been waiting for 60 years."

Hannah Stirling, 82, from Tarbet, who founded Friends of Loch Lomond in 1978 to stop a hydro-electric development there, also welcomed the plans, but said they should be introduced immediately to reverse the area's environmental decline. Unfettered growth of power boats, unsympathetic commercial developments, and the litter dropped by five million tourists each year were just some of the problems, she said.

The Scottish countryside is currently protected by a range of schemes, including sites of special scientific interest, regional parks, national nature reserves and national scenic areas. However, areas have been left vulnerable because none has planning powers, which remain with the local authorities.



Loch Lomond, which, with The Trossachs to the east, is to be Scotland's first National Park. It will be established early in the next century

Hospital infections kill more than road crashes

MORE people die each year of infections caught in hospital than are killed on the roads, according to a report published today.

Infections are solely responsible for at least 5,000 deaths a year and are partly responsible for a further 15,000. Last year the number of road casualties fell to 3,598, the lowest since records were started in 1926. The number peaked at 7,985 in 1965 and has been declining steadily since.

Hospital-acquired infections, however, continue to increase. Although accurate records do not exist, the cost of treating those infected runs into tens of millions of pounds, according to the Office of Health Economics. The estimated bill for treating patients who became ill after surgery amounted to £170 million in 1993, and this group represented only a quarter of all those infected in hospital.

The report uses 1996 Department of Transport figures which estimate that the cost to the economy of a life lost in a road accident is £841,000. On this basis the estimated addi-

A disturbing side-effect of medical treatment is costing millions of pounds a year, reports Ian Murray

tional annual cost of the 5,000 deaths directly attributable to hospital-acquired infection is £4.2 billion. This does not include the cost of the 15,000 others who died after complications caused by an infection caught during treatment.

The report says that on average one patient in 16 becomes infected in hospital, increasingly so with bacteria that prove resistant to antibiotics. Because these people have to remain in hospital longer than those who recover normally, one patient in ten at any one time is there solely because of an infection acquired after admission.

These longer stays take up beds that could be used to treat other patients, amounting to at least a million "bed days" lost to the health service every year. With patients being released earlier, many who have

succumbed to an infection before discharge have to be treated outside, putting extra strains on GPs, health visitors, nursing homes and community care services.

An outbreak of an infection that is resistant to antibiotics can be very expensive. One case which lasted two years cost £403,600, involving ward closures, cancellations of operations and admissions. Cases like this cut the earning capacity of the hospital and can wreck the reputation of staff.

Although little can be done to prevent most hospital infections, at least a third are preventable, the report says. Britain, however, does not spend enough on the necessary staff. Whereas the recommended quota for infection control nurses is one per 250 beds, the average in Britain is only per 477 beds, with one in

five such nurses employed to survey more than 750 beds.

The report argues that spending more on specialist staff saves money. A 20 per cent cut in hospital-acquired infection would save £15.6 million a year, a 32 per cent cut would save £29.3 million and a 50 per cent cut would save £50 million.

The Government announced a £250,000 scheme yesterday to help to reduce the millions of pounds wasted on unused medicines. Up to half of patients suffering from chronic diseases do not take their medication properly, according to a study by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

The study found that many patients needed more treatment after failing to take medication. One in five kidney transplant patients were not taking their anti-rejection medicines.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told the society's conference in Scarborough that the money would be spent on getting patients to take medicines "at the right time and in the right quantities".

Diet drugs withdrawn amid heart risk fears

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

TWO diet drugs have been withdrawn from the market after being linked to serious heart damage.

Fenfluramine, sold as Ponderax, and dexfenfluramine (Adifax) were withdrawn by their manufacturer, Servier Laboratories. The company had taken the same action in America at the request of the Food and Drug Administration, which found evidence this year of heart valve damage in some users.

Servier said, however, that 60 million people had been treated with fenfluramine over 35 years, and 10 million with dexfenfluramine over 12 years, and there had been no evidence of heart valve damage during that time.

The Department of Health says it believes that "tens of thousands" of prescriptions are written for the two drugs every year. This year the Royal College of Physicians recommended tighter restrictions on their use.

Lawsuits make NHS appoint risk specialists

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

LITIGATION against hospitals is growing at such a rate that the average district general hospital now has 50 to 100 people suing it at any one time, it is claimed today. As a result, a whole industry has evolved to deal with the increasing level of complaints and legal action in the NHS.

The final part of a Radio 4 series, *Lawsuits and Liniment*, tonight points out that one symptom is that trust hospitals have appointed litigation or risk managers to deal with potential claimants and avoid future mistakes.

Mark Savage, the producer, says: "Law firms specialising in medical negligence have seen the work pour in, although most people accept that litigation is like plastic surgery — few of those who have been through the process go away satisfied."

Efforts are being made on all fronts to find ways to avoid the courts, he added. "Hospitals are looking at best practice, and the legal profession is experimenting with mediation

and promoting the message that it's good to talk."

In tonight's programme, *Lawsuits and Litigation Managers*, Jane Chapman, risk manager at Northwick Park and St Mark's Hospital NHS Trust near Harrow, North London, says that in the trust's first year, she dealt with six claims for compensation. In the first three months of this year, there were three times that number: "Sometimes two or three arrive in the same post. In common with every trust that has an obstetrics unit, we have claims where babies are born less than perfect. We have a number of claims for brain-damaged babies which may or not be a result of hospital care."

"At the other end of the spectrum, we have people claiming for quite minor problems like a scar being slightly larger than they anticipated or being in slightly more pain than they anticipated."

Claims at the top end of the spectrum are now often in excess of £1 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sky fined for leaflets that misled viewers

BSkyB was fined £5,000 with £4,001 costs after leaflets failed to make clear that watching last year's Bruno-Tyson boxing match would cost £9.95 extra. The case at Shropshire trading standards officers. Sky admitted two charges relating to misleading information, but said it had tried to reduce the problem with national publicity. The stipendiary magistrate, Phillip Browning, said: "Sky did not set out to defraud, but they intentionally misled."

Attack boy wakes

A policeman's son has emerged from a coma six days after being beaten by a gang of Asian youths, allegedly in retribution for a racist attack. Daniel Moore, 12, of Hounslow, West London, suffered a fractured skull and underwent brain surgery.

Death remands

Five people were remanded in custody by magistrates in Bury, near Manchester, charged with the murder of Christian Rodgers, 21, who suffered head injuries after falling through the rear doors of a minibus on the M66 near Bury on Friday.

£3m clergyman

A retired clergyman from Exmouth, Devon, has died aged 100 and left £3 million to the Church of England and its charities. Canon Leslie Brasnett, the last of his line, inherited family estates in Oxfordshire from his brother, who died aged 95.

Roman route

Part of a Roman road has been discovered during work on a sewer near Stanton Fitzwarren, Wiltshire. Archaeologists believe it was the main route from a nearby villa to the highway between Silchester, south of Reading, and Cirencester.

Matchless result

The Devon Football Association has banned Geoff Arnold, 46, a referee, for five years for reporting a match that did not take place. One side had only four players and wanted to avoid a fine. The clubs were fined and one manager suspended for seven years.

Flash of anger

A driver caught by a speed trap drove home for a rope and returned to try to tow the camera away. William Potter, 19, of Watchfield, Somerset, admitted criminal damage and perverting the course of justice and was fined £400 at Bristol Crown Court.

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CJD risk 'is trebled by eating beef regularly'

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

EATING beef regularly appears to have trebled the risk of catching Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, according to the fifth annual survey by the specialist unit in Edinburgh set up to monitor the illness. Those eating brains even very occasionally ran a fourfold higher risk of catching the disease.

The report is the first since the new variant of the illness was identified but it found no convincing evidence of specific dietary risk factors. The survey nevertheless agrees that the most plausible explanation of the new variant is exposure to "mad cow" disease before the introduction of the

official ban in 1989. Publication of the report coincided with the creation of a special epidemiology group, chaired by Professor Peter Smith of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to consider the data on the new variant and to spot emerging trends.

The report is based on a study of the eating habits of the 187 cases of classic CJD identified between 1990 and 1996. The findings show there was almost a threefold increase in risk associated with consuming beef every month and a 3.3-fold increase among those eating it weekly. There

has been suspicion about the risks from eating lamb and the study found some people eating the meat on a monthly basis appeared to be at increased risk compared with those eating it less often. The difference is so slight that the link between the disease and the meat cannot be clearly shown.

The authors say the incidence of the illness increased from an average 24.8 cases a year before the BSE epidemic in 1984 to 34.5 between 1990 and 1996. Levels in Britain were comparable to those elsewhere in the world, including countries free of BSE.

CORRECTIONS

■ Ann Iverson, chief executive of Laura Ashley, does not sit on the company's remuneration committee (report, September 11).

■ Gus Macdonald, executive chairman of Scottish Media, will not continue to receive his present salary when, at the beginning of next year, he becomes part-time non-executive chairman (City Diary, September 10).

Karmele Ereno

A report (September 27, 1996) about Djamir O'Neill, the IRA suspect shot dead by police in London earlier that month, speculated that his Basque girlfriend, Karmele Ereno, acted as a go-between for the IRA and the Basque terrorist organisation ETA. This suggestion was without foundation and we apologise to Ms Ereno.

Leukaemia cases halted by research

By Our Legal Correspondent

TWO test cases claiming a link between leukaemia and electromagnetic fields have been shelved, after American research failed to provide evidence.

Legal aid had been granted to fund the cases on behalf of Tom Loxton, 12, who lives in a block of flats near a pylon and developed leukaemia three years ago, and the parents of Simon Studholme, 12, who died in 1992. His home in North Manchester was next to an electricity sub-station.

The actions have been awaiting findings from the American National Cancer Research Institute in Washington, and a British study being co-ordinated by Sir

Richard Doll. Now the Washington study has published its findings, which do not confirm a link. The larger British study will not produce its findings until next year.

The two companies facing legal action, the National Grid Company and Norweb, said last night: "The findings were sufficiently negative to make them believe at this time that it is unlikely that electric and magnetic fields are a cause of childhood leukaemia." The statement by the companies said they hoped "that the British public will be reassured by this important new scientific development in relation to electromagnetic fields".

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Shoppers urged to save English apple growers

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

MANY English apple growers are facing bankruptcy after the worst season for many decades, it was claimed yesterday. The crop, which in recent years has been about 25,000 tonnes, has been halved by severe late spring frosts and periods of cold, windy conditions during the summer.

The poor harvest is likely to accelerate years of decline and the loss of traditional apple orchards from counties such as Kent and Suffolk.

Adrian Barlow, chairman of the Cox Campaign, which markets English apples, said he expected 50 growers to fold this year because of the poor crop. Some experts put the figure as high as 100. Several growers were likely to switch to other fruits or crops. "This year we have had catastrophic conditions that have not been faced by growers since 1934," Mr Barlow said that many of the English apples going into shops had frost eye and russetting, markings which may make them appear unpalatable. He urged retailers and consumers to ignore the markings and help to prevent growers going to the wall.

"We want everyone to realise that marking in no way impairs eating quality. Before modern farming methods, it was thought that a Cox only tasted good when it had a bit



Markings on the skin do not affect the quality

of rusting. Now, due to the uniformity of many fruit and vegetables, many consumers are put off by marking, and this could cause growers big problems this season, particularly with so many imported apples expected to flood the market," he said. The terrible year for English apples has been blamed on the warm weather in April, which brought on blossoms faster than usual. "Then we had acute damage from two late frosts on April 21 and on May 6," Mr Barlow said. The early summer brought strong winds, rain and very cold weather.

The hot August has meant that those apples that have survived are sweet. However, it also caused the crop to come on early, making apples difficult to store beyond Christmas. "The bottom line is that if consumers don't support us this year and buy the apples while they can, they

will find it increasingly difficult to buy English Coxes in the future," Mr Barlow said.

About seven out of ten commercially grown dessert apples in Britain are Coxes. English Gala appear to have escaped the effects of the weather, but ancient lines such as Slap Me Girl, Tang Harvey and Pig's Nose have not. English orchards have been under pressure since Britain joined the Common Market, which has allowed cheap imports. Forty years ago there were 3,000 commercial growers of apples in this country, but in recent years a mixture of cheap imports, such as French Golden Delicious, and EU grants of £10.5 million to grub up orchards have pushed the figure down to about 650.

The grants were aimed at reducing production across the Community, but hard-pressed British growers, rather than the big continental farms, have been more likely to take them up.



Elaine Griffiths inside the decaying Monastery of St Francis in Manchester

World recognition raises hopes for ruined monastery

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A VICTORIAN monastery stripped bare by vandals and left to crumble in the elements has been declared one of the world's hundred most important endangered buildings.

The Monastery of St Francis, in Gorton, Manchester, was the spiritual home for its inner-city flock for more than 100 years after its consecration in 1872. But its congregation disappeared with the slum clearances and, after the Franciscan friars left in 1959, its redbrick and stone splendour fell into ruin.

The monastery is one of four British buildings put on the "most endangered" list by the World Monuments Fund, based in New York. The others are the Mussenden Temple, a rotunda built on the Northern Ireland coast by the Earl of Bristol in 1783, the St Vincent Street Church in Glasgow and the Hadlow Tower in Kent. They join more imposing and better-known buildings, such as the Alexander Palace in St Petersburg.

The aim of the fund is to

identify "eminent and unsung" buildings in need and match them with sources of funding. So far more than £2.5 million has been provided by American Express and other donors to help those on last year's list.

The Grade II listed Gorton monastery was built by the leading neo-Gothic architect Edwin Welby Pugin and was considered the most beautiful parish church in the North of England. Now its statues have been stolen, the roof is exposed and the interior has been damaged by fire.

Last year it was offered a new lease of life when a charitable trust was launched to restore it. Elaine Griffiths, the chairman, said: "It is incredible to think the building will be included among some of the world's greatest architectural landmarks. We can now apply for much-needed cash to repair the monastery and, with a lottery bid we will submit shortly, I don't see what can stop Gorton's magnificent monument from being saved."

Hepatitis link to cancer uncovered

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS have discovered why people infected with hepatitis B and C are at greater risk of liver cancer. The infection favours the growth of liver cells which lack the gene that normally protects against cancer, according to a researcher from Duke University in North Carolina.

The cells were still capable of regenerating the liver, but were especially prone to cancer, Dr Randy Jirtle, who has been working with Angus De Souza of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals in Cheshire, said. When they suffered further damage in the course of detoxifying chemicals, they could not repair it and developed into

tumours, the team reports in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*.

Large numbers are infected with hepatitis C, many as a result of blood transfusions. The British Liver Trust estimates there are about 500,000 infected in this country; how many will develop liver cancer is unknown. Infection rates from hepatitis B are lower.

How the change occurs is not clear, but it may be that the virus favours the survival of cells that can grow more easily than normal ones. Another possibility is that these cells are protected from being killed by the infection, while normal cells are not.

Risk in living off fat of the land



MEDICAL BRIEFING

One of the contradictions in medicine is that while longevity is related to social class — the affluent live longer — an extensive diet rich in red meat apparently increases the risk of some cancers.

The latest reports of Corna, the committee on medical aspects of food policy, and the World Cancer Research Fund are said to recommend against having more than 140 grams (5oz) of red meat a day. As this is about twice the intake of British people, it may be of more importance to travellers, and may persuade them not to finish their American steaks.

It is likely that the fat between the fibres of the joint — which gives it its flavour — and the skin is responsible for any increase in malignancies. A heavy consumption, however, of some particular forms of meat — those, for instance, which have been smoked — may be involved in an increased incidence of stomach cancer.

In a woman, cancer of the gall bladder and body of the uterus has the most clearly defined relationship to obesity, frequently related to a high-fat, high-calorie diet, and there is a less obvious relationship between overeating and cancer of the breast and cervix. In both sexes, there is some association between cancer of the colon and fat intake, but the connection is more marked in men. Prostate cancer is probably more common in

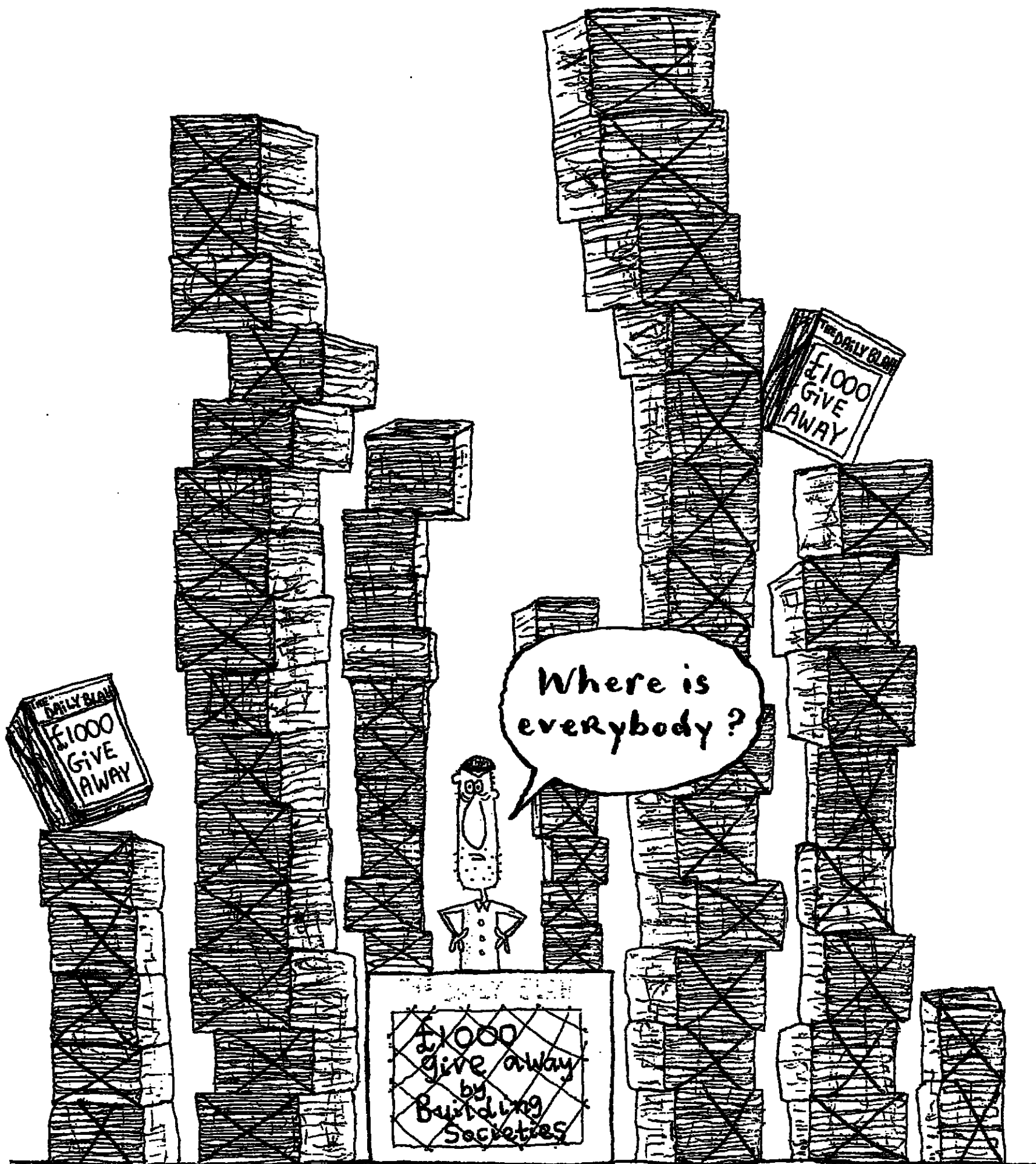
overweight men. The association between the cancers is likely to be connected to the effect of a high-fat diet on hormone production.

The latest reports draw conclusions from an old story. During the Second World War, the study of nutrition became of great importance. An unexpected finding in animal experiments was that the number of cancers could be increased by overfeeding.

Few doctors now doubt that diet has some influence on liability to develop some forms of cancer. Risk will be reduced to some extent by a diet rich in fresh fruit and vegetables, with a high fish content — particularly if the fish has not been smoked or artificially preserved — and enough fibre to keep the bowels working regularly, but not so much as to reduce absorption of vitamins and other essential elements. A high-calorie diet, over-rich in fat and fat-laden red meat, tends to increase risk.

Social and economic factors confuse the picture, particularly as obesity is related to class, and hence to the availability of good medicine, which can contribute to survival. Balanced nutrition is all-important. There are not so much good and bad foods, but a good diet. The disadvantages of burgers may be compounded by chips which often go with them.

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STUTTAFFORD



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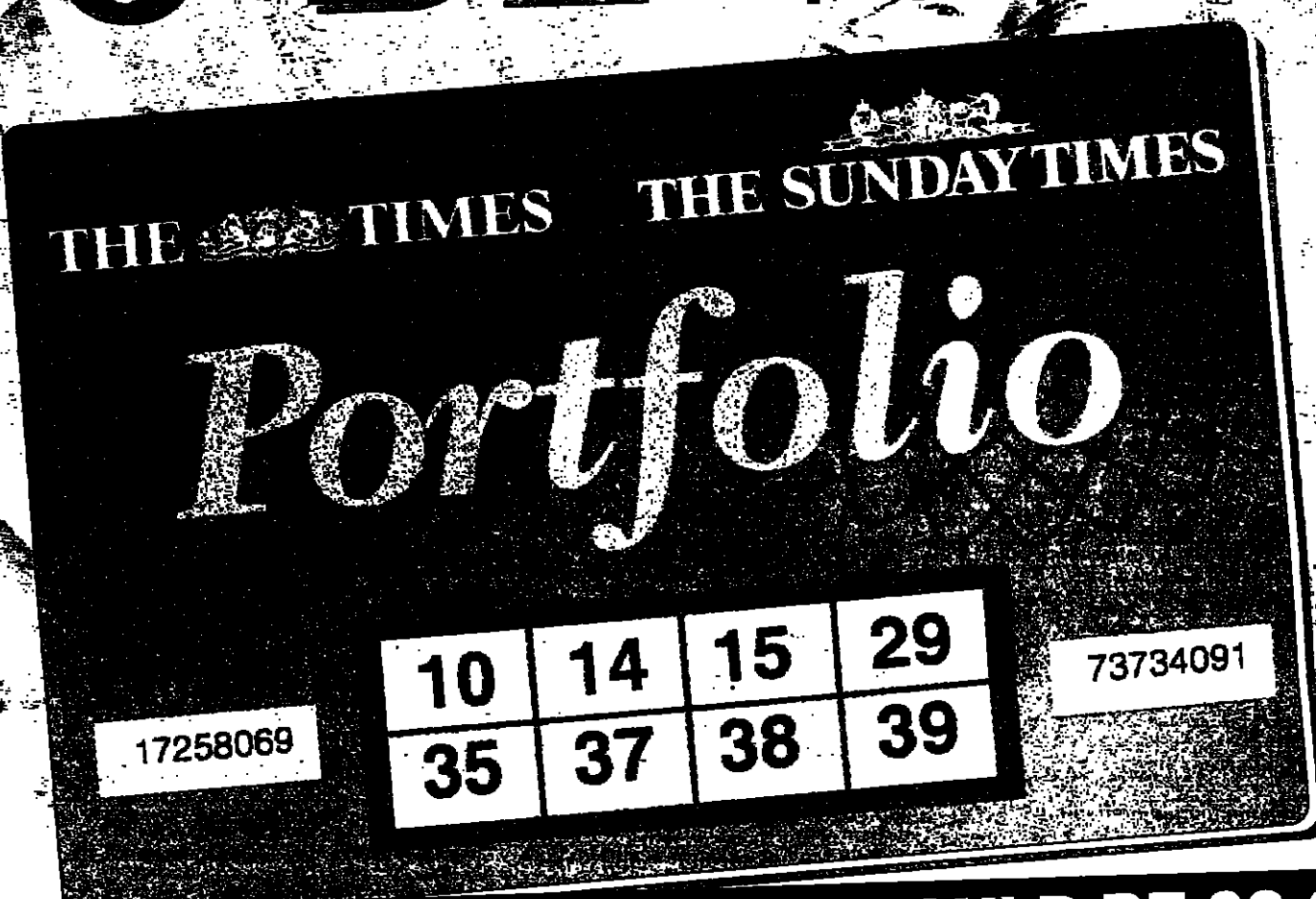
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The weekly accumulator game starts in *The Times* on Monday, September 22. To play the weekly accumulator game you simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in the *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

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*If your card is not inside today's *Times*, you can get one by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. There will be another gamecard in *The Times* on Monday, September 22, and cards are also available at selected newsagents.

START PLAYING PORTFOLIO — SEE THE EQUITY PRICES PAGE 30

PORTFOLIO RULES 1 The *Times* and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio is free. Purchase of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* is not a condition of taking part. 2 *Times* Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in *The Times* Equity Prices page. The *Sunday Times* Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted as the Top 200 companies in *The Sunday Times* Stock Exchange price page. Readers' calculations should be based on whole numbers only. Where a fraction appears the figure should be rounded down to make a whole number e.g. 4½ equals 4. The companies comprising the list will change from day to day. This list (which is numbered 1-44) is divided into four randomly distributed groups of 11

shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers. 3 The *Times* and *The Sunday Times* "dividend" will be the figure in pence which represents the optimum movement in prices (i.e. the largest increase or lowest loss) of a combination of eight (two from each randomly distributed group within the 44 shares) of the 44 shares from each randomly distributed group within the 44 shares of the 44 shares. 4 The daily dividend will be announced each day and the weekly dividend will be announced each Sunday in *The Sunday Times*. 5 The *Times* and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list and details of the daily or weekly dividend will also be available for inspection at the offices of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Cards are freely available at *Times Newspapers Ltd* offices or you can call the

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THE TIMES

MPs threaten to fight for changes after Welsh vote

REBEL Labour MPs warned the Government yesterday that they would campaign to change the Welsh assembly even if the people of Wales voted for one on Thursday.

Ted Rowlands, Labour MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, said that he was still deeply unhappy about the proposals, although he has said he will vote in favour of devolution. His main objection, which is shared by other Labour MPs sceptical of devolution, is that the quango state in Wales will not be dismantled.

There is also concern about the relationship between the 40 Welsh MPs and the proposed 60 members of the Welsh assembly. There is irritation that members of the assembly executive committee will be called "ministers" and that this might undermine the role of an MP.

Mr Rowlands asked: "Do we think there are jobs for 100 full-time politicians? Sixty in the Welsh assembly and 40 at Westminster? From my own parliamentary experience I have great doubts that you need that number." He said the White Paper had "serious flaws" and he signalled that he would raise them during Commons debates on devolution.

The Government has made clear also that in certain circumstances ministers from the Welsh assembly will be able to take part directly in negotiations in Brussels.

Mr Rowlands also expressed fears that the Secretary of State for Wales would be "something of a eunuch

Labour dissidents will continue to rebel even if there is support for an assembly, writes

Valerie Elliott

without executive power and without a budget", without the power the position now holds in the Cabinet or unable to negotiate extra cash for Wales.

Ron Davies, Welsh Secretary, has consistently dismissed the sniping from Labour critics. He has told close colleagues that the opponents to devolution were of the older generation of Labour MPs.

There is nervousness, however, that even without a high-profile campaigner urging the Welsh to vote "no", there is still deep uncertainty or apathy among a large body of voters. There was concern yesterday about a poll for HTV Wales, which gave a lead of about 3 per cent to the "yes" campaign. A third of those questioned were still undecided and ministers are anxious to find out if the Scottish result has made any impact.

Tony Blair, who will campaign in North Wales today, will reiterate the need for Britain to modernise its constitution and for the people of Wales to take part in the reforms. He will seek to assure more anglicised voters that a "yes" vote is not a vote to break-up the United Kingdom.

The Labour Party leadership is aware that some opponents fear the creation of a separatist state. Mr Blair has made clear however that Wales will not have the same powers as Scotland and that key decisions on such issues as social security, defence, security and foreign affairs will continue to be made by the Cabinet for the whole nation. His message will be repeated by a line-up of Cabinet ministers who will campaign in Wales. David Blunkett,

Education and Employment Secretary, in Welshpool, mid-Wales yesterday pledged that a Welsh assembly would bring better standards to Welsh schools. He said the Tory legacy in Wales was that one in 10 Welsh pupils left school without any GCSE qualification, and that teaching, numeracy, communication, and information technology was inadequate in four out of every ten Welsh schools.

"Just Say No" supporters will launch their final push tonight at a rally in Llandrinod Wells to be addressed by Michael Ancram, the Conservatives' chief spokesman on constitutional affairs. William Hague, the Conservative leader and a former Welsh Secretary, will tomorrow make an appeal to voters to reject the assembly when he tours Wales.

Referendum rules, page 18
Letters, page 19



A clear run: Tony Banks on the pitch. It was the same at the shops

Trying day as Banks team attempts to sell big issue on the street

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

NOBODY was trying too hard to get in Tony Banks's way yesterday. Not when he was allowed to score a try on a visit to Cardiff Arms Park, and certainly not when he tried to whip up interest in the Welsh devolution campaign on a visit to Swansea shopping centre.

Perhaps they were just avoiding the stiff breeze, but many shoppers ducked into doorways as the Sports Minister and his entourage approached. Some of the scurrying shoppers looked the other way with almost exactly the same expression they wore while pretending not to see a *Big Issue* seller with a sleeping bag and bull terrier.

So Mr Banks cornered the *Big Issue* seller, named Llewellyn. He was not alone in being thoroughly confused about the campaign, which has been dogged by apathy. Afterwards, Llewellyn complained that he had not yet witnessed any benefit to come from devolution: "As far as I'm concerned, it's just a lot of people talking nonsense on the telly."

Elaine Kavanagh was one of several who complained that they had yet to receive any of the much-heralded public information pamphlets through their letter boxes. She said: "I'm inclined not to vote at all

unless someone can tell me what the benefits will be to Wales. How can we vote without know what the issues are?"

Finding a Welsh person in the small group distributing leaflets and lapel stickers in the pedestrian precinct was not easy. "I'm just down from London for the week to help out," said one. Another Labour activist who preferred not to be named had come from Northampton to lend his support and hand out Vote Yes balloons.

Earlier, Mr Banks had put on a track suit and posed for photographs with the Cardiff rugby team, who generously allowed him to score a try. He was anxious to protest that he was not just a token Cockney parachuted in to pep up the campaign. His wife, Sally, is from Carmarthen.

Mr Banks said: "Besides the family connection, I have a very direct political interest in the campaign as, after Wales, it will be London's turn to vote for more local democracy and an elected body to represent its interests. I can't honestly see why anyone would vote against more autonomy for their community. To me, it just seems like common sense."



Ted Rowlands warned of "serious flaws"

Bishop backs Blair's right to pick clergy

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE man who is understood to have been rejected for the job of Bishop of Liverpool by the Prime Minister has defended Tony Blair's constitutional right to exercise a choice.

The Right Rev. Gavin Reid, Bishop of Maidstone and a close friend of the Archbishop of Canterbury, was speaking amid renewed calls for disestablishment of the Church after Mr Blair exercised his right to reject the two candidates put forward by the Crown Appointments Commission for Liverpool, one of the most prestigious bishoprics in England.

Bishop Reid, 63, said that Mr Blair had "a constitutional right to do this and it would be a bit disturbing if he never used it." "As someone who believes in the value of establishment, I welcome a Prime Minister who believes in these matters."

"Until the Government and the people of this country do not want establishment, I do not think the Church should be thinking of abandoning it."

However, he said it was speculation to suggest that his name had been put forward to succeed the Right Rev. David Sheppard. "I would be amazed if my name had been put forward, because it is not in the custom of the commission to offer diocesan jobs to people of my age."

The Ven. George Austin, Archdeacon of York and a former member of the commission, said he had become a convert to disestablishment. He called for the process by which bishops are appointed to be reviewed, and said it was time for the Church to sever its links with the State.

He said the present process led to the appointment of bland bishops who were "clones" of the Archbishop

of the Canterbury at the time. "Because eight of the 12 members of the commission have to agree on a name before it can go forward, this means that the names agreed are inevitably those that nobody objects to. This means that the mavericks never get through. We could do with a few more mavericks."

Downing Street officials confirmed that Mr Blair, a devout Anglican, was taking an active interest in church affairs and that he had been personally involved in the latest selection process. Mr Blair had asked to see more names before making a choice of which one to put forward to the monarch, who has been responsible for appointing bishops since before the Norman conquest.

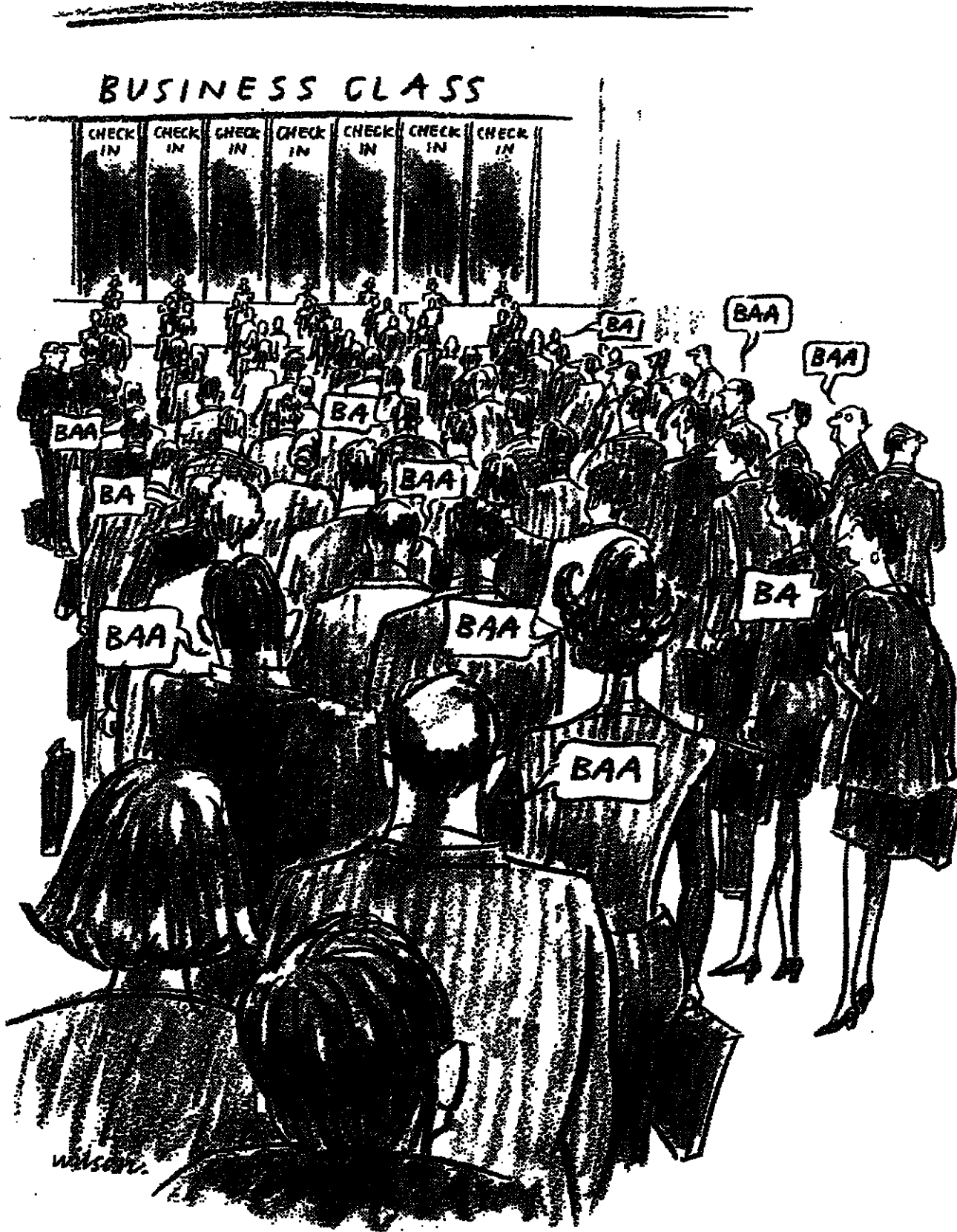
However, Downing Street sources also made it clear that the two names already put forward had not necessarily been excluded from the final choice.

England is the only part of the Anglican community where bishops are not directly elected by the Church. Since 1977 a commission has put forward what it considers are the two best candidates.

Leading article and Letters, page 19



Austin said selection process was flawed



Warning: Sheep get fleeced.

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Clinton nominee quits fray

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

WILLIAM WELD, the patrician former Republican Governor of Massachusetts, withdrew his nomination as American Ambassador to Mexico yesterday, ceding victory in the most protracted of Washington's recent political battles to the conservative forces of Jesse Helms.

Bowing to inevitable defeat after last week's theatrical public refusal by Mr Helms, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to countenance him as President Clinton's nominee, Mr Weld told the

White House that he would no longer pursue the Mexico job.

In announcing his decision, he was expected last night to seek no further diplomatic role in the Clinton Administration and return to the private sector as an investment banker.

The imbroglio between Mr Helms, a southern arch-conservative, and Mr Weld, a liberal Boston Brahmin and member of the East Coast elite, had endured throughout the long summer months, a struggle highlighting the divisions between the radical and moderate wings of the Republican Party.

From the start, Mr Helms, the

North Carolina senator who has proved the most persistent thorn in the side of Clinton foreign policy, had argued that Mr Weld was too soft on drugs to represent Washington in Mexico, a country plagued by cartels and a main channel for narcotics into the United States.

The former Governor, whose recent misfortune included last year's unsuccessful attempt to win a Senate seat in Massachusetts, openly backs the medical use of marijuana and needle-exchange programmes.

Privately, Mr Helms, who has long shown open contempt for homosexuals, feminists, campaigners for af-

firmative action and abortion supporters, viewed Mr Weld as too liberal in every sense.

A pro-choice Republican, Mr Weld had publicly advertised the homosexual members of his staff during his time as Governor. He resigned from the post in July in what he described as a personal effort to seek the ambassadorship. Since then, he has campaigned for the nomination and had regular support from a White House only too eager to watch the Republican Party tear itself apart in front of the nation.

With the return of Congress after the summer recess, however, the bat-

tle was brought to a head on Friday when Mr Helms refused even to grant a hearing to Mr Weld during a half-hour Senate meeting.

Repeatedly banging his gavel to drown the interruptions of liberals, Mr Helms had even managed to taunt his enemy with the words: "Got your ticket to Mexico yet?" as the two shook hands afterwards.

Mr Helms, who became the chairman of the committee not through any knowledge of foreign policy but rather because he was the longest-serving Republican on it, has maintained a consistently obstructive stance towards the White House.

Jerusalem fury at settlers' takeover

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND NICK BLANFORD IN BEIRUT

TWO flat-roofed Arab houses in annexed east Jerusalem emerged yesterday as a new Middle East flashpoint. Jewish settlers moved in under cover of darkness immediately after Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, had pledged to veto an adjoining Jewish housing project.

Palestinian leaders and leading opposition Israeli politicians condemned the move as likely to provoke renewed confrontation and Mr Netanyahu condemned the action of the settlers.

Islamic groups, which have threatened more suicide attacks in Jerusalem, were quick to call for retaliation and the Israeli security forces are braced for riots after Muslim weekly prayers on Friday.

Yael Dayan, the leading Labour Party politician and daughter of the late Moshe Dayan, the war hero, was one of many politicians who came to the tense area at the foot of the Mount of Olives. "I hate to say it, but the next act of [Palestinian] terror will stem from here. These settlers will then be guilty and what is more, Mr Netanyahu will be guilty."

The houses were bought from their Arab owner with funds supplied by a Miami-based magnate, Irving Moskowitz, and leased to the settlers. Mr Netanyahu had promised to veto Mr Moskowitz's plans to build homes for 70 Jewish families in the Ras al-Amoud area overlooking al-

Aqsa Mosque. Hundreds of heavily armed troops and border police were sent to protect the three settler families whose wrecked cars bore witness to stone-throwing by local Palestinians soon after the takeover.

As the settlers moved in according to a pre-arranged plan, supported by some leading right-wingers in the Israeli Government, the prayer leader in a nearby mosque shouted to local residents through a loudspeaker: "Come out and attack the Zionists. They are taking your land." Eyad Silwadi, a Palestinian, shouted in Hebrew: "Maniacs."

Rabin widow snubs leader

Jerusalem: The feud between Yitzhak Rabin's widow, Leah, and Binyamin Netanyahu erupted in public yesterday as Mrs Rabin refused permission for the Prime Minister to lay a wreath at the spot where her husband was gunned down by a right-wing extremist in 1995 (Christopher Walker writes). "There is no reason for such a public relations trick, for this fraud, this hypocrisy," she said.

Mrs Rabin has accused Mr Netanyahu of stirring the inclement campaign against her husband that encouraged his murderer.

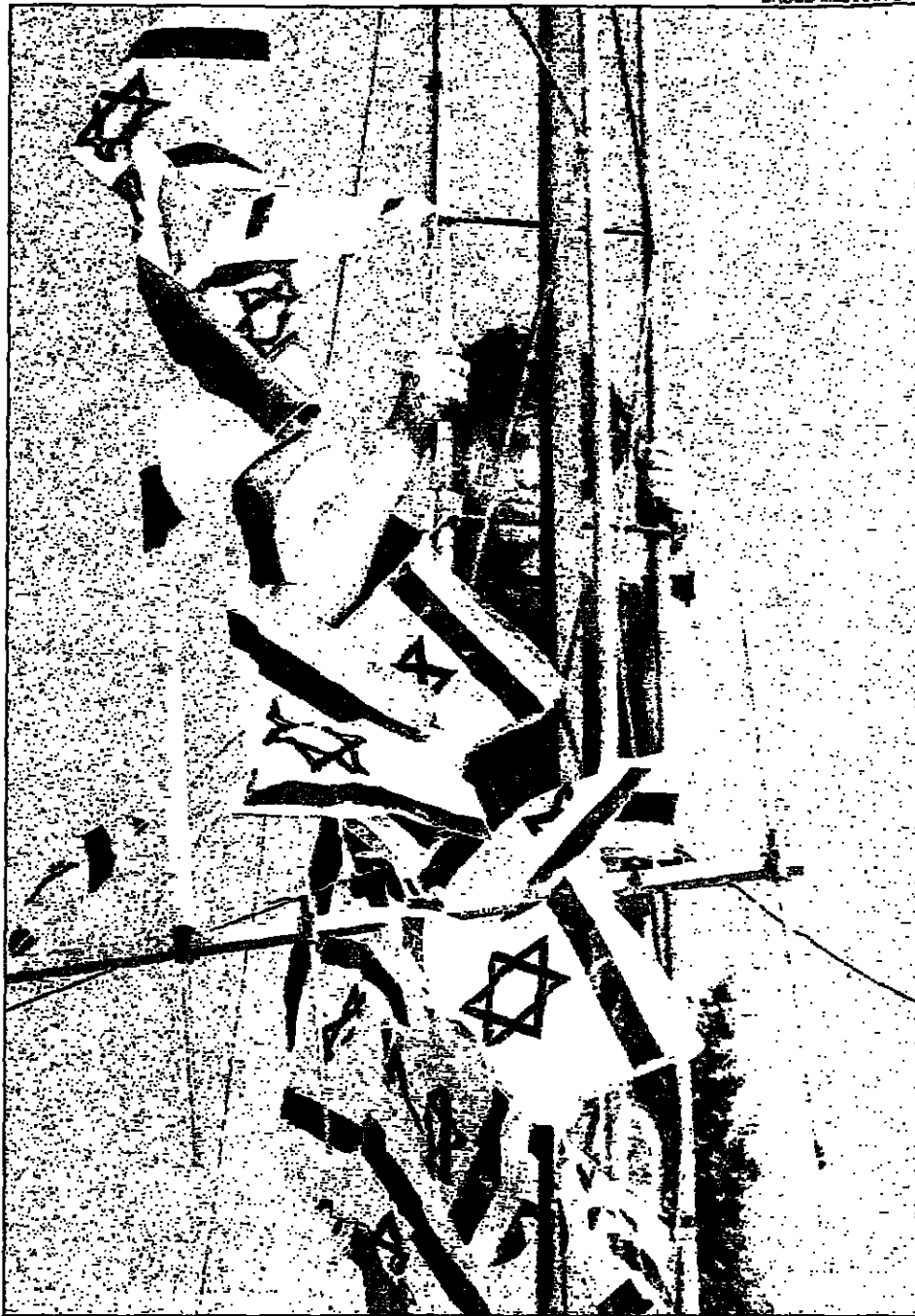
These are our buildings. You came at night, like thieves."

The determined settlers were soon rushing in supplies of food, attaching strings of Star of David flags to the roofs of the houses, fitting closed-circuit television cameras and plastering the buildings with stickers proclaiming "Jerusalem belongs to us".

As well as the Jerusalem troubles, the past six weeks have witnessed a serious worsening of fighting in southern Lebanon between Shia Muslim guerrillas, mainly Hezbollah, and the Israeli Army. Yesterday Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, made a surprise visit to Beirut, apparently in response to the increased tension. She offered little hope that the peace process could be salvaged.

Ms Albright, who ended her inaugural tour of the Middle East yesterday, said: "I am an optimist, but I cannot make any predictions of success based on my discussions this week." It was the first time that an American Secretary of State had visited the Lebanese capital since 1983.

Ms Albright flew by helicopter from Cyprus to the new US Embassy in the hills above Beirut before meeting President Hrawi and Rafik Hariri, the Lebanese Prime Minister. Her visit to Lebanon, which was kept secret until the last minute, is believed to have been prompted by the worsening crisis in the south.



A Jewish settler fixes a string of Israeli flags to one of the seized houses yesterday

Namibia ship finds suspected site of German jet crash

BY RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A NAMIBIAN ship appears to have discovered the site where a German military aircraft plunged into the Atlantic Ocean, a German Defence Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The ship's crew had discovered a large pool of oil off the West African coast, the spokesman said. The Namibian fisheries protection vessel had made the discovery close to an area where rescuers searching for the Tupolev Tu154 had earlier recovered part of an aircraft seat and some German papers.

He said the ministry had no information on the fate of a missing US Air Force C141 cargo plane. Officials have said they feared the two planes had collided in mid-air. Both planes vanished on Saturday, with a total of 33 people on board.

The Tupolev was carrying 12 German Marines who were due to take part in the South African Navy's 75th anniversary celebrations, the wives of two of them and ten crew members. The other missing aircraft, with nine crew on

board, was on a flight from Windhoek, capital of Namibia, to Ascension Island.

Katib Bell, general manager of the South African Airline Pilots' Association, said that if the aircraft had collided it was a tragedy that had been waiting to happen. Large areas of increasingly crowded South African skies were governed by poor and outdated air traffic control operations. She said it was possible that the military pilots were not making use of in-flight broadcast procedure, now adopted by most airlines operating flights to South Africa. Airline captains radio details of their positions every five or ten minutes in order to alert other pilots and ensure adequate separation levels.

The German aircraft was not fitted with "black box" recording or collision alert systems, the ministry spokesman said. This would have given the investigators clues to what happened before the crash, while a collision alert system would have informed the pilot of approaching danger.

WORLD IN BRIEF

US troops arrive on ex-Soviet soil

Moscow: Five hundred American troops parachuted into Kazakhstan yesterday at the start of joint peacekeeping exercises with several former Soviet republics (Robin Lodge writes). The manoeuvres, the first of their kind to involve American and Russian troops on former Soviet territory, will last for six days with a total of 1,400 men from more than a dozen nations.

The exercises are aimed at improving co-ordination between Nato forces and those of the former Soviet bloc. General John Sheehan, commander of US Atlantic forces, who was the first to jump, said: "The US interest is that the Central Asian republics live in stability." But he added: "A message I would like to leave is that there is no nation on the face of the Earth that we cannot get to."

British exercise in Ukraine

London: British troops will take part in a military exercise with Ukraine this week for the first time, to strengthen links that were forged during peacekeeping duties in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Michael Evans writes). Soldiers from the 2nd and 4th Battalions of The Parachute Regiment, backed by Royal Engineers, three RAF Hercules and a field ambulance unit, will be training tomorrow with paratroopers from Ukraine and Poland in an exercise codenamed Cossack Steppe. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who flies to Ukraine later today after a brief visit to Warsaw, will see how the new post-Cold War military links between Britain and countries in Eastern Europe are rapidly developing.

Norway poll signals change

Oslo: The seven-year rule of Norway's minority Labour Government seemed to be ending as the country voted yesterday in an election with polls putting Labour's support below the minimum it demands to stay on. The two final opinion polls of a campaign, fought mainly over health and care for the elderly, put Labour at 35.7 per cent and 34.3 per cent. The Prime Minister, Thorbjørn Jagland, frustrated by calls from the Opposition for a new administration with fresh policies, says Labour must match its 1993 result — 36.9 per cent — if it is to stay for another four-year term. (Reuters)

Chubais is 'murder target'

Moscow: Russia's intelligence services have strengthened security around Anatoli Chubais, right, the country's most powerful and controversial minister, after a tip-off that he was about to be assassinated (Richard Beeston writes).

A contract was reportedly put out against the Deputy Prime Minister, who masterminded President Yeltsin's re-election and oversees economic reforms, by an oil company with huge tax arrears.



EU overtures to Iran

Brussels: The European Union agreed in principle to send its ambassadors back to Iran, but said it would first discuss the decision with Tehran. Officials will probably put the proposals to the Iranian Government on the fringes of next week's United Nations General Assembly in New York. Senior EU diplomats were withdrawn from Tehran in April after a German court ruled that Iran's leadership had ordered political assassinations in Germany. (Reuters)

Cook backs Bosnia stay

Brussels: Robin Cook added his voice to calls for the international military force in Bosnia, due to pull out next June, to stay longer to build on the success of last weekend's elections. "If the British troops and the others all pull out next summer, there is a risk that a lot of the work that has been done could be undone," the Foreign Secretary said on arrival at a meeting of European Union foreign ministers. (AP)

Briton killed in Alps

Chamonix: A British climber died and three others were injured when an avalanche swept them into a 60ft crevasse on Mont Blanc, rescue services said. The accident happened at about 10,000ft, as five Britons who were roped together were hit by the 200-yard-wide avalanche. Two of them managed to climb out and raise the alarm. (AFP)



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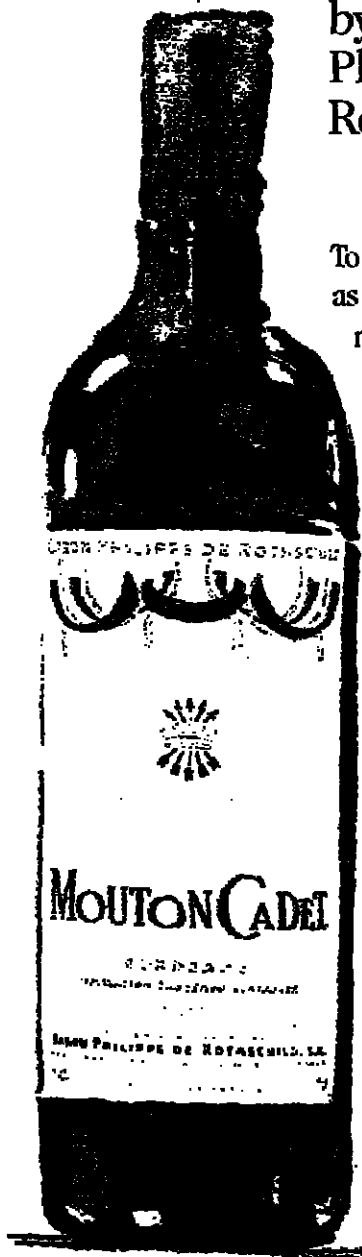
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CHANGING TIMES

L'Art de l'Assemblage

by Baron
Philippe de
Rothschild



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words of the French
with protestations of love.

ps arrive viet soil

erian troops parachuted into the start of joint peacekeeping in the first of their kind to involve on former Soviet territory, will of 1,400 men from more than a

rise in Ukraine

take part in a military exercise the first time to strengthen links peacekeeping duties in Bosnia. Soldiers from the 2nd Parachute Regiment, backed by helicopter and a field ambulance, will be sent to Ukraine. The Ukrainian government has asked for British troops to be sent to Ukraine, who flies in a military plane between Britain and Ukraine rapidly developing.

signals change

of New Labour's minority Labour government in the country voted to support the Labour's support for the new Labour government. The two final votes were 100 to 99 and 100 to 99, with the Labour government winning both votes.

murder target



s to Iran

the most serious of the world's nuclear powers, the United States has said it will not negotiate with Iran until it has agreed to halt its nuclear weapons programme. The US has said it will not negotiate with Iran until it has agreed to halt its nuclear weapons programme.

Bosnia stay

British troops will remain in Bosnia for the foreseeable future, the British government has said. The British government has said that British troops will remain in Bosnia for the foreseeable future.

d in Alps

the body of a man was found in the Alps, the British government has said. The British government has said that the body of a man was found in the Alps.

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US Air Force grounds Stealth fighters as air show crash pilot is praised

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United States Air Force grounded all its remaining Stealth fighters yesterday after the crash of an F117A Nighthawk as it performed combat manoeuvres at

a Baltimore airshow. Spectators on Sunday saw the black fighter, America's secret weapon in the Gulf War, disintegrate overhead and its pilot parachute to safety. Amateur video showed the plane, which requires constant computer calculations to maintain its equilibrium, veering into a roll after a piece of the fuselage apparently broke off and then tumbling to the ground. The jet, carrying 11,000lb of fuel, landed in the front garden of a bungalow and burnt it to the ground. The only person inside was un-

harmd. Four people on the ground suffered minor cuts and bruises. As firefighters attempted to control the blaze, military police cordoned off the scene to protect the plane's radar-evading technology. "It is a secret aircraft," said Captain Drew Sullins, of the

Maryland National Guard. "Obviously we want to protect it the best way we can." The pilot, Major Bryan Knight, was taken to hospital after landing in a residential neighbourhood in his parachute with no serious injuries. William Cohen, the Defence

Secretary, praised him yesterday for staying in the \$45 million (£22 million) aircraft as long as possible to avert a disaster. "To watch the film of him waiting until the final moments before ejecting truly complements the kind of courage and dedication that is

exhibited day in and day out by men and women in the air force all over the world," Mr Cohen said. The 49th Fighter Wing in New Mexico, home base of all 53 F117A planes, yesterday suspended routine flights while maintenance checks were made.

Purged leader urges Tiananmen rethink

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

IN WHAT appeared to be a courageous move that directly challenges the Communist Party line, the disgraced former party chief Zhao Ziyang has appealed to the party to reassess its verdict that the Tiananmen Square protests were a "counter-revolutionary rebellion", party sources said yesterday.

Mr Zhao showed sympathy for the students demonstrating for democracy in 1989, and urged them to leave the square peacefully. In what would be Mr Zhao's first political act since he was purged, the 77-year-old former head of the party, who died last February, has apparently sent a letter to the current 15th party congress in Beijing.

The letter appears to bring him into contention with Li Peng, the unpopular Prime Minister who signed the martial law Act that led to the bloody crackdown on June 4, 1989, in which hundreds of students died. Deng himself, however, had taken the ultimate decision to break up the



demonstrations. Mr Zhao, who is still regarded warily by China's leaders because of the popularity of his relatively liberal political and economic views, described his letter as an open message to the 2,048 delegates attending the congress, which aims to set China's course for the next five years.

There was no official confirmation that the letter circulating in Beijing was actually from Mr Zhao, and a spokesman for the congress, Xu Guangchun, said tersely while introducing "model" workers to the press: "We have not seen that sort of letter. With regard

to the question of June 4, our party and Government have already made the right judgment."

Just before the congress started, a group of Mr Zhao's supporters openly appealed to the congress to free him from house arrest. Many Chinese are still angered by Tiananmen, and the issue is only one that will not go away for party leaders.

A former associate of Mr Zhao said: "I cannot confirm that Zhao is the author of this letter, but it is the kind of thing he would say, and this matter has got to be addressed sooner or later, especially if China is to regain widespread respect in the world."

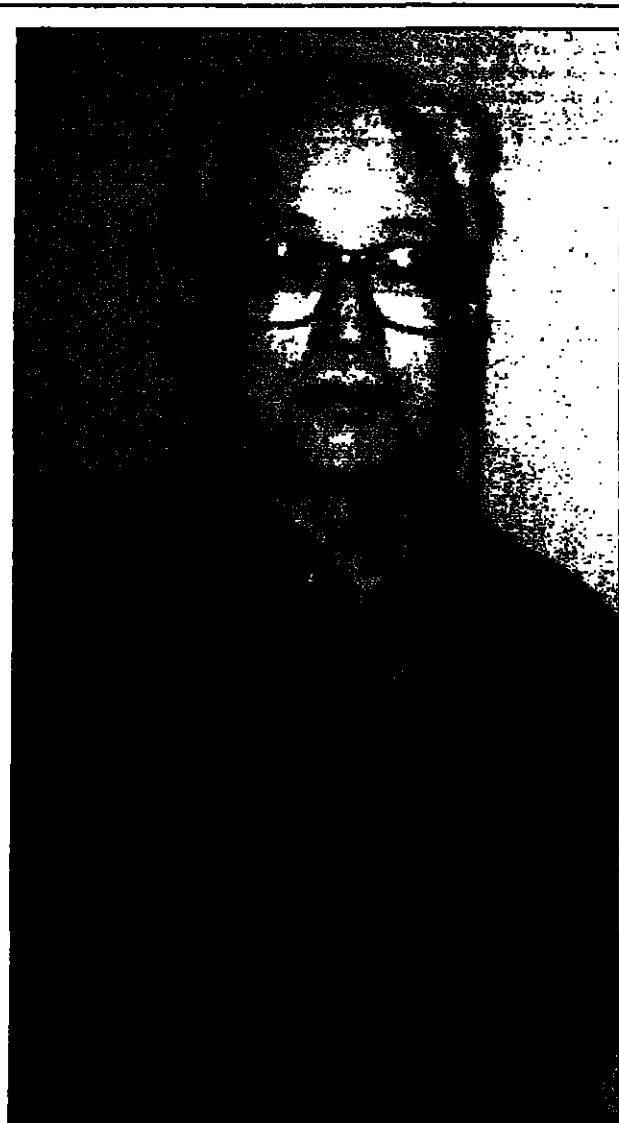
Mr Zhao, who has been under house arrest since his downfall but is allowed out sometimes to play golf and visit other provinces, wrote in the letter: "It is basileous to determine the nature of the movement as a counter-revolutionary rebellion. Everyone knows that at the time most of the students wanted punishment of the corrupt and to

promote political reform and not to overthrow the Communist Party. The problem of reassessing June 4 will have to be resolved sooner or later."

Mr Zhao said that, since it was not a counter-revolutionary rebellion, armed suppression should not have been used to end it. Diplomats said that corruption remained an issue of major concern to most Chinese. Just before the congress started, a former Beijing party chief, Chen Xitong, was expelled from the party for corruption.

Envoys said that when Deng died in February the current party chief, Jiang Zemin, turned down Mr Zhao's request to attend the funeral service. With Deng's death, however, it had become possible to think of a reassessment of the Tiananmen Square incident.

At a press conference relating to the congress, a "model" plumber from Shanghai, Xu Hu, was asked about the Tiananmen incident. "I think our Government has already handled this well," he said.



Zhao: scolded by Deng for taking students' side

Plea that led to Zhao's disgrace

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

THE last time I saw Zhao Ziyang — the last time anyone saw him at liberty — was at 5am on May 19, 1989, when he entered Tiananmen Square and, speaking through a loud-hailer, said to the students who swarmed about him: "Sorry, sorry, too late, too late. You should criticise us and blame us."

Standing behind him, a grim-faced Li Peng said nothing. By midnight Mr Zhao was under arrest and Mr Li was announcing the imposition of martial law, his voice booming across the square from loudspeakers.

That triggered a rush by thousands of students towards the west of Beijing where, to their astonishment, they were able to block the army, which had daily been drawing ever closer to the centre of the city.

What we did not know was that on May 17 Mr Zhao had attended a meeting of the Politburo Standing Committee at Deng Xiaoping's mansion behind the Forbidden City. Deng, who did not trust the relatively young men on the committee, had also summoned some of the "immortals", retired revolutionary grandees whom he knew he

could rally to support a crackdown. At this meeting, Mr Zhao was scolded by Deng for encouraging the students. Deng reportedly said he had the army behind him; when Mr Zhao replied that he had student backing, Deng said that meant he had no support.

On May 18, Mr Zhao and three other Politburo members, including Mr Li, visited hunger-striking students in hospital. There, as seen on television, Mr Zhao told the students that their aims and the party's were the same, and that they should abandon their fast.

That same day, Mikhail Gorbachev, then the Soviet leader, left China, where he had spoken to Deng, Mr Li and Mr Zhao. His spokesman told me, off the record: "The only one of those guys that the boss ever wants to see again is Zhao."

On May 19, Mr Zhao told another Politburo meeting that he took full responsibility for the demonstrations and offered to resign. Deng rejected that, because it would have proved that the leaders were in disagreement. It was from that meeting that Mr Zhao took his car to the square, for his last moments at liberty.

Mrs Mandela bids for top ANC post

Power could be the best refuge for President Mandela's ex-wife from the mounting accusations against her, writes R. W. Johnson from Johannesburg

WINNIE Madikizela-Mandela, the former wife of President Mandela, who is facing hearings over her alleged complicity in the murders of a child activist, Stompie Seipei, and a Soweto doctor, Abu-Baker Asvat, now finds herself at the centre of two new storms.

First, Jerry Richardson, the former coach of her infamous Mandela United Football Club, who is serving life imprisonment for Stompie's murder, has confessed to the murder of another township activist, a teenage girl called Kuki Zwane, whom, Richardson says, he killed on Mrs Mandela's orders.

Mrs Mandela merely told him that "Kuki Zwane is disturbing me, she's bothering me", and this was, he alleges, enough to sentence the girl to death. There is speculation that Richardson may at last be willing to testify against Mrs Mandela.

At the same time, however, the ANC Women's League, of which Mrs Mandela is president, has formally nominated her for the ANC deputy presidency, a post which will be filled at the party congress next month when the incumbent, Thabo Mbeki, steps up to the presidency in succession to President Mandela. This constitutes a serious bid for power as President Mandela prepares to leave the scene. Given the ANC's dominance of the political system, the party's deputy presidency brings with it the deputy presidency of the country.

With this nomination the cat is really among the pigeons. Mrs Mandela has never attempted to run for party office before; now she is aiming to

establish for herself a position of such unchallengeable authority that the numerous allegations that dog her will become a thing of the past.

Mrs Mandela may, indeed, have her eye on the presidency itself, for there are widespread doubts that the uncharismatic Mr Mbeki will be able to fill President Mandela's shoes, and the magic of the Mandela name could make her a powerful challenger before long.

Until now the names of a number of other essentially nondescript politicians have been tossed around as possible Deputy Presidents — all of them clients or cronies of Mr Mbeki. He has been careful to stay on the right side of Mrs Mandela and has sometimes even taken up the public cudgels for her, some-



Mandela: new claims over township killing

thing few other ANC politicians are willing to do.

Now, however, all this seems likely to end. If Mrs Mandela presses her bid, Mr Mbeki will have no option but to run his own campaign against her — for the notion of Mrs Mandela as Deputy President would alienate all manner of domestic and international constituencies.

Any contest featuring Mrs Mandela will be rough. In the past all elections involving her within the Women's League have left in their wake allegations of intimidatory pressure.

It is, nonetheless, hard to see Mr Mbeki losing such a vote, but Mrs Mandela has already begun to make pointed allegations of the complicity of "leading ANC moderates" in the murder of Chris Hani, the charismatic Communist Party leader. There is here clearly a threat that Mrs Mandela, if publicly thwarted by Mr Mbeki, may try to broaden her allegations to include him.

The pressure will mount on Mrs Mandela to withdraw her candidacy. The possibility is only too obvious that the *quid pro quo* for this could be the official dismissal of all the current allegations and accusations against her.

The next few weeks in the run-up to the congress promises to be full of drama, especially as President Mandela himself has yet to show his own hand in the matter.

Royal mix of fantasy and fable falls flat

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE pre-publicity that heralded the "expose" of the Royal Family by Kitty Kelley, the American biographer, was in glaring contrast to the dull thud with which the book's launch was expected to be greeted in America last night.

An examination of *The Royals*, published in the United States today, shows it to be a racy mixture of fact and fiction; little more than a collection of idle hearsay and unsubstantiated claims from a biographer whose timing could not have been worse.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and subsequent trouble for the Royal Family have been so reverentially absorbed into the American psyche that Ms Kelley's publishers must be wondering why they paid this "most fearless" of biographers a £3 million advance.

The book has been deemed unpublishable in Britain, not merely for reasons of taste but also because the main characters, including the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margaret, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, probably would reap vast sums under British libel law.

Launched on NBC television last night, *The Royals* alleges serial marital infidelities by members of the Royal Family, but offers only the unsubstantiated gossip of courtiers as proof.

At its most revealing, the book paints a sometimes affectionate and otherwise damning portrait of life among the Windsors.

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Tennis star serves up pacifist Marseillaise

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

YANNICK NOAH, the French tennis champion turned rock musician, has outraged old soldiers and traditionalists by recording a new version of the *Marseillaise*, replacing the bloodthirsty words of the French national anthem with protestations of peace and love. The

original, which was written as the revolutionary army marched to war in 1792, calls on French citizens to raise the "blood-soaked banner" and "water the soil of France with the impure gore" of enemy tyrants.

By contrast Noah's version, released earlier this year as a single entitled *Oh révé* (Oh dream), gently urges: "Let us try to open our spirits, across the country, to

peace and tolerance. Let us rediscover French virtues."

Since the single was released, French radio and television stations have been deluged with complaints that the sanitised version is an insult to French national and military pride. "The national anthem is a treasure that should not be tampered with," Jean-Pierre Diaz told *Le Parisien*.

EU budget fight beckons

Bonn is taking
Thatcher line
on funding
says Charles
Bremner

THE future of Britain's special rebate from the European Union budget came into question yesterday as Germany and The Netherlands insisted they paid too much to Brussels, and southern European states refused to consider giving up the heavy flow of EU cash they receive.

The lines for a long and bitter battle over EU funding were drawn by foreign ministers when they met for the first review of the plan to invite states from Central Europe and Cyprus to start membership talks early next year. Most members support the Commission's proposal that spending be held steady at the present ceiling of 1.27 per cent of gross domestic product.

The quarrel, which promises to drag on until 1999, springs from the need to switch resources to pay for the inclusion of poor states from the former communist bloc. Spain and Portugal said yesterday there was no question of agreeing to proposals to cut the lavish regional aid that they receive to switch the funds to financing the probable entry of Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia, Hungary and Cyprus.

"If extra money is needed for enlargement, it will have to be found elsewhere," said Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister. Greece and Ireland, both strong beneficiaries, are

also resisting any cut in their hefty EU income.

Complicating the quarrel is the insistence by Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden that they pay far too high a share of the EU's £50 billion budget. Their argument is the same as Margaret Thatcher's in her long battle in the 1980s to reduce the net British contribution.

Since German reunification, Bonn estimates it pays about 65 per cent of the net burden of the EU each year. The Dutch calculate that they are the biggest contributor per head. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, told colleagues: "We want a fairer balance and a better flow of money back."

Karel Van Miert, the Dutch minister, said the Agenda 2000 plan for enlarging the EU was "unacceptable" as it stood. The Netherlands wants greater "proportionality" in its contribution. The German-Dutch offensive was denounced as "un-European" by Belgium. Erik Derycke, the Belgian Foreign Minister,

EUROPE'S FIVE-YEAR CALENDAR

1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
October 2: Amsterdam: Signing of new Union Treaty. Late October: European Commission issues key economic forecasts showing which countries likely to qualify for EMU.	January: Britain takes over EU presidency. EU states start ratifying Treaty of Amsterdam (successor to Maastricht). Membership negotiations start with Cyprus and chosen states from Eastern Europe.	January: New spending package takes effect, incorporating reformed CAP and regional aid.	January: New spending package takes effect, incorporating reformed CAP and regional aid.	January: New spending package takes effect, incorporating reformed CAP and regional aid.
November 20-21: EU special summit (in Luxembourg) to tackle unemployment.	May 2-3: (provisional dates): Special summit in Brussels, chaired by UK, to choose founding members of single currency. Exchange rates to be set between currencies of future euro zone.	July 1: Austria takes over EU presidency.	September: German general elections.	January: euro notes and coins enter circulation. Old currencies disappear.
December 12-13: EU Summit (Luxembourg): Must decide which East European countries will be invited to start negotiations to join EU. Also due to agree on "conduct code" to try to bring business and savings taxes into line. Britain due to state intentions on monetary union.	June 16-17: Cardiff EU Summit. Argument likely on future EU	January 1: EMU launched. Germany takes over EU presidency.	June: Elections to European Parliament.	From 2002: Cyprus and Central European states join EU.

said: "The insidious debate about 'fair return' must stop. It is against the spirit of solidarity."

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, used similar language when Germany launched its budget offensive at a weekend meeting of finance ministers. Britain, still one of the bigger net contributors, says there is no question of giving up the rebate. It is emphasising the need to cut spending by reforming the common agricultural policy, which consumes more than

half the annual budget. The Commission's reform plans, drawn up as part of the enlargement programme, do not go far enough, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told EU colleagues. The eventual financial package is subject to unanimous voting, so the veto applies.

EU officials are worried that the fight over money could set back the process of reforming the spending programmes and enlargement. Another obstacle was thrown up yesterday when France, Belgium

and Italy said no new members should be allowed into the EU until it had reformed its decision-making institutions to cope with the expansion. The three, supported by Austria, will add a declaration to the Amsterdam treaty, when it is signed next month, to this effect. The Amsterdam summit which produced the treaty is deemed to have failed to revamp the Commission and voting mechanisms necessary to prevent paralysis when the EU expands to more than 20 members.



A Dutch mounted policeman emerges from a smoke hazard during a practice session yesterday for duty at a national parade in The Hague today

Italy toasts bumper year for wines

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THIS YEAR'S Italian wine harvest is the best for 50 years, according to *Corriere della Sera*. Barolo and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano as well as many humbler wines from Sicily and Sardinia all score exceptionally high marks.

The prospect of a great 1997 vintage comes after reports that this year's French harvest is also of unusual quality. "This is a collector's year," said Giuseppe Martelli, of the Italian Oenologists' Association, adding: "Connoisseurs will be in ecstasies."

The quantity being produced is lower than usual, but prices are higher, with expected mark-ups at least 10 per cent higher than last year's.

Italy earned a reputation as a notorious over-producer of wine in the 1980s, much of it of indifferent quality and destined for the European Union wine lake. But 250,000 acres of vines have been dug up since 1989 as part of a policy of "restoring the balance between supply and demand".

Bruno Ceretto, a leading producer of Barolo wines,

said there was a boom in Italian wine sales caused in part by the popularity of "the Mediterranean diet". Signor Martelli said the quality of this year's Italian red wines was "at 1947 levels", while the whites were comparable with those of 1990. Favourable exchange rates have enabled producers to make inroads into the American and European markets and Italy also has 15 per cent of the Japanese market.

The producers of Brindisi in southern Italy meanwhile were celebrating an unexpected bonus in the form of a huge order from China. An agricultural consortium from Brindisi said that it had signed a deal with officials from the Chinese province of Shandong who were so taken with the quality of Brindisi wine that they ordered the entire regional supply of two million hectolitres a year for eight years. The contract is worth £65 million to overjoyed Brindisi farmers.

Leading article, page 19

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Palin in the Pacific

MICHAEL PALIN, the actor, comedian and ardent adventurer, is the star speaker at The Times/Dillons Forum on Thursday, September 18, at the Westminster Hall, London.

For his latest BBC TV series, Palin and his team travelled through the amazing lands bordering the Pacific, and his illustrated



talk presents the highs and lows of this epic journey. Admission price for the forum, which starts at 7.30pm, is £10 (concessions £7.50), including £2 off Palin's book, *Full Circle* (BBC Books, £19.99).

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'Bhutto assets' frozen by Swiss in cash inquiry

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT, AND PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

SWISS authorities have imposed a three-month freeze on bank accounts allegedly held secretly in the names of Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistani Prime Minister, her husband and her mother.

The Government of Pakistan claims money in the accounts was siphoned out of the country. It is the first time the powerful Bhutto clan has been so directly challenged over its huge fortunes in money, land and property.

Switzerland has accepted a request to block accounts of about six foreign-based Pakistani firms in which Miss Bhutto and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, had a "covert" partnership, according to Saifur Rahman, a senator in charge of a Pakistani government commission investigating corruption. It has long been alleged, but forcefully denied, that Mr Zardari held

substantial overseas interests. Mr Rahman called these developments a milestone in the Government's drive to unearth alleged corruption by Miss Bhutto's administration, which was ousted in a general election eight months ago in a wave of public disgust. Her Pakistan People's Party was practically wiped out, raising doubts about her ability to make a comeback.

The Swiss are waiting to see if criminal charges are filed against Miss Bhutto in Pakistan for corruption before taking the case further. Judicial authorities in Islamabad have to lodge a formal request for mutual assistance by December 8, including details of the charges and the relationship with Bhutto assets in Geneva, to allow bank documents to be handed over to investigators.

A fax from the Pakistani

Prime Minister's office on September 8 identified four banks in Geneva alleged to hold accounts and deposit boxes in the Bhuttos' name. It asked for bank documents to be handed over on suspicion that the Bhuttos "willfully and knowingly plundered the national wealth for their own personal motives".

Folco Galli, a spokesman for the Swiss Justice and Police Ministry, said that the letter did not mention an amount. The three-month blocking order is designed to prevent the removal of assets from Switzerland, but Swiss banks are obliged to lift secrecy and inform the authorities if they have any accounts in those names.

Anwar Khalid, the Law Minister, said in Islamabad that laws in Switzerland were tough and the authorities there could not be influenced

easily. The Swiss Government had acted on evidence considered to be reliable.

Miss Bhutto — and her husband, who is in jail in Karachi on a string of criminal charges — headed what is claimed to have been the most corrupt regime in Pakistan's brief democratic history. It allegedly became all but impossible for any large business

deal to go through without the involvement of Mr Zardari, known as "Mr Ten Per Cent" for the commissions it is said he demanded.

He was given the post in his wife's Government of Minister for Investments, though no such ministry existed. Opponents said it amounted to a licence to export money. Commentators have said Miss

Bhutto will never return to power so long as she remains married to Mr Zardari.

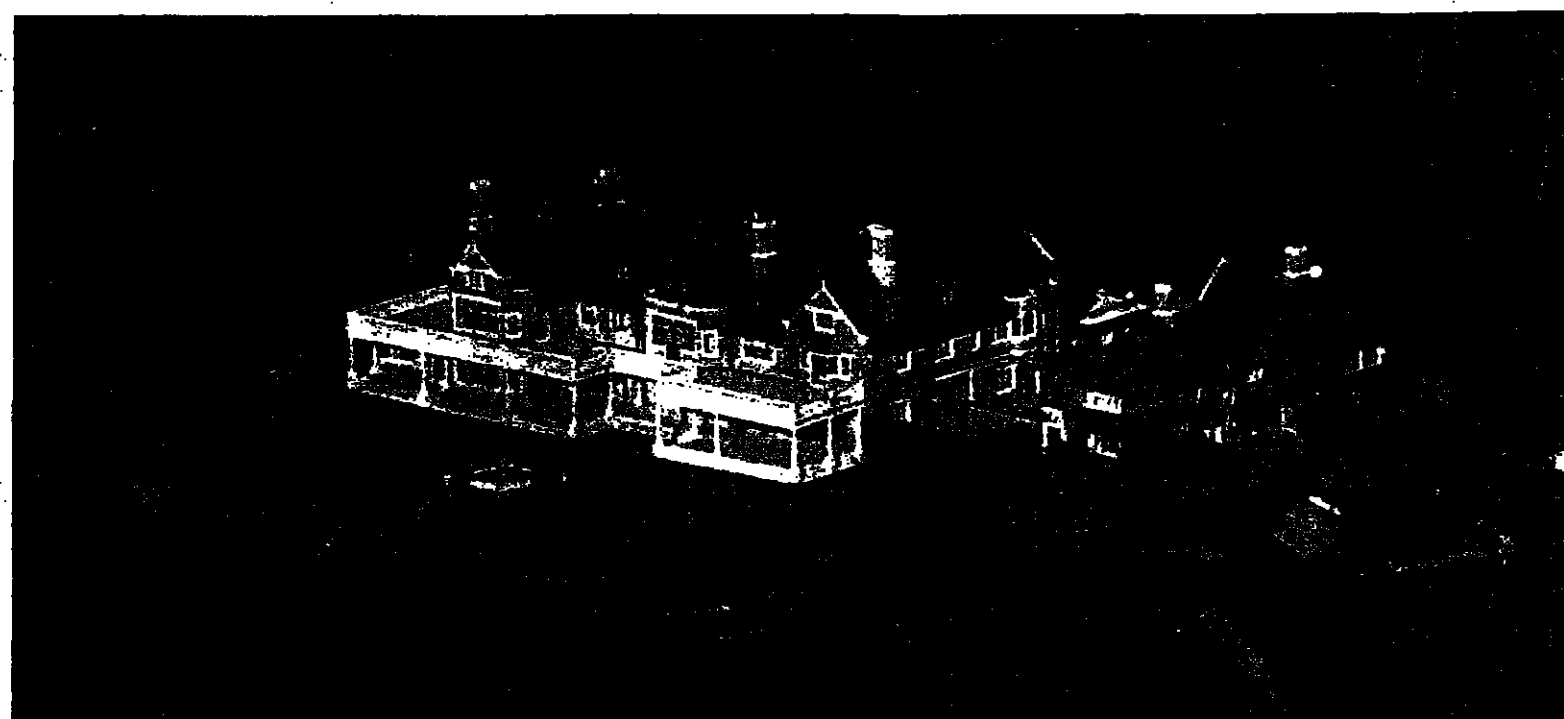
The drive against Miss Bhutto, who is in Dubai, must contain an element of political vendetta. The last Government of Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, was riven with fraud and his present administration is hardly better. The Cabinet consists

largely of the same discredited ministers as his first administration, but no there have been no moves against those known to be corrupt.

Nor have any other senior government politicians or bureaucrats who have enriched themselves illegally been brought to book, despite an "accountability" drive that was supposed to have

cleansed one of the world's most corrupt nations of high-level fraud. The German-based Transparency International says Pakistan is the world's most corrupt country after Nigeria; India is eighth.

The moves against the Bhuttos demonstrate a determination to destroy any chance that the feudal family will ever rule again.



Rookwood, the £2.5 million Edwardian home at Brook in Surrey allegedly bought by Asif Ali Zardari, husband of Benazir Bhutto

Manor in Surrey bought secretly

By LIN JENKINS

OPponents of Benazir Bhutto have identified properties in Britain and France which they claim form part of the web of financial impropriety by her husband.

One is a £2.5 million manor house in a 355-acre estate, which is said to be one of the most secluded large houses in the Home Counties. It was bought amid great secrecy nearly four years ago. The estate agents, Browns of Guildford, Surrey, were unaware of the buyer, as the sale was concluded through a London solicitor.

Rookwood in Brook, Surrey, set in 26 acres of formal parkland, has a private landing strip, two staff cottages and a separate gymnasium with tennis court and indoor swimming pool. The particulars at the time of sale show that it had a master suite, guest suite and seven other bedrooms. However, villagers say the Edwardian manor house has been much altered.

A 7ft fence surrounds the property. Local people say Pakistani security guards

patrol the grounds. Last year Miss Bhutto denied she was behind the purchase of the estate. However, documents obtained by her opponents in Pakistan allegedly show that Asif Ali Zardari, her husband, bought the house through an Isle of Man company.

They claim that crates marked "mangoes" and shipped by Pakistan International Airways actually contained furniture, artworks and antiques destined for the house. Eight crates arrived in May last year with an invoice stating they contained goods sent from Miss Bhutto's private residence in Karachi to the Pakistan High Commissioner in London.

The Pakistan High Commission declined to disclose their final destination.

Miss Bhutto has a house in the south of France and her husband an estate in Normandy bought in the name of his parents. Last year it was discovered that Mr Zardari was paying for two luxury flats in Wilton Crescent, Belgravia. One may now have been sold.



Benazir Bhutto's political future rests on solving the problem of her marriage to jailed Asif Ali Zardari

Yoked together on path of disgrace

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

BENAZIR BHUTTO and Asif Ali Zardari perplex Pakistan. Nobody can fathom their marriage — why it happened and why it survives. They are from vastly different backgrounds; one is upper middle class, the other the daughter of one of the country's richest, most powerful feudal families. His reputation makes her all but unelectable so long as the marriage lasts.

Miss Bhutto was disgraced in this year's general election less by her own conduct than her husband's. His name has become a byword for corruption, although no allegations have been proved. He is held in general contempt.

"Why does she stand by him?" is a question asked repeatedly. It was an unconventional arranged marriage. They met at a dinner party — Ms Bhutto says she does not remember the occasion — and thereafter Mr Zardari pursued her until he was granted permission to meet her formally. It took a long time for the marriage to be approved.

His father owned a Karachi cinema and had other investments, but compared with the Bhutto holdings he was a

financial fledgling. It might have been that Miss Bhutto, educated in England where she had a sports car and enjoyed the night life, received relatively few good marriage offers from the conservative Pakistani upper class.

She is said to have grown to love him, but was upset by his playboy reputation. Those close to them say they once came near to divorce and that the marriage is again in trouble, but Miss Bhutto denied this week that she intended to leave him. Mr Zardari has rejected allegations that he was involved in the killing of her brother, Murtaza, shot by police in Karachi.

Murtaza was trying to claim the Bhutto political legacy, and he and Mr Zardari are said to have argued often. Murtaza's death led to talk the marriage would end. According to one friend, Miss Bhutto intends to stand by him, at least while he is in jail.

Ms Bhutto has never been suspected personally of corrupt financial practices but her association with Mr Zardari implicates her, by association, with plunder of the national exchequer.

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Romance, sex, fertility and the bottle

The anaesthetic effect of brandy, so useful to the 19th-century surgeon, can equally well dull a lover's senses before he, or she, climbs into bed. Transitory impotence after heavy drinking is always thought to be a male problem, but a woman who has drunk to excess — perhaps only three or four glasses of wine — may lose not only her ability to have an orgasm, but also her ability to respond.

The effect of even small quantities of wine on female sexual response was explored by a colleague who worked as an assistant at my practice in Norfolk. He and his partner stayed with us for some months and we dined together each night. At first I could not understand why his usually healthy appetite for wine had become so controlled. After a couple of glasses all round, he would announce that we had had enough. It was a week or two before he admitted the truth: it took two glasses of wine to relax his girlfriend to the point where she wanted sex — any more and she was incapable of enjoying it.

The long-term effects of drinking on the reproductive system are even more significant. Alcohol taken in excess for a number of years produces physical changes in both sexes. Men can suffer from testicular atrophy — shrinkage of the penis — a loss of body hair and gynaeco-

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH



DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

In the third extract from his new book, Dr Thomas Stuttaford looks at alcohol's effect on male and female libidos and fertility

mastia (enlargement of the breasts). The body shape changes, too: there is an acceleration of the normal redistribution of fat and loss of muscle that occurs in both sexes as they grow older. The arms and legs become skinny and the chest and abdomen increase in girth. Men develop a pot belly. Research has shown there is a direct relationship between the possession of a "beer belly" and the likelihood of being impotent.

The popular explanation for the long-term changes that occur in the male reproductive system is that the oestrogen/testosterone balance is upset because of hormonal changes secondary to liver disease. Oestrogens are the hormones that determine femininity; testosterone gives a male his

distinctive physique and personality. It is supposed that the damaged liver fails to metabolise adequately the oestrogens that circulate in all men. In addition, the testosterone is metabolised differently to oestradiol.

The combination of these two processes decreases the amount of testosterone and increases the oestrogen. And not all testosterone is free testosterone; that is, readily available in a form the tissues can use. In men with liver disease, much of the testosterone is not free, and so is comparatively useless at imparting male characteristics.

A quick glance around any dinner table will usually reveal that many men have "liver palms", a sign of liver disease. The fleshy portions of



Some like it hot: but while a couple of glasses of wine may put a woman in the mood, three or four can make her lose her ability to respond

the palm are bright red while the back of the hands are pale, so that there is a "Plimssell line" between the two sides. This condition is seen not only in heavy drinkers but also in women who are pregnant or taking the Pill, two states in which high levels of oestrogen are circulating.

The effects of heavy drinking on men are not all related to liver damage: high blood levels of alcohol also have a

directly damaging influence on testicular function. The Leydig cells in the testes, which secrete testosterone, are vulnerable to alcohol. So in heavy drinkers not only has the metabolism of testosterone and oestrogen been altered, but the actual secretion of testosterone reduced.

The changes in a man are not confined to anatomy and physiology; his psyche is also altered. The heavy drinker loses his libido as his testosterone levels fall. High blood-alcohol levels also damage the seminiferous tubes, where the sperm are formed, thus impairing spermatogenesis.

Research published in the journal *Gastroenterology* in 1974 showed that 80 per cent of alcoholics were infertile. Consistently heavy drinking affects the sperm count, and more of the sperm are of abnormal form. Sperm motility is also reduced: they are less likely to swim strongly and in the right direction. To achieve maximum fertility, sperm have to swim with the determination of a greyhound springing from the traps.

Although less obvious, the effects of excessive alcohol are equally trying in women. There is some shrivelling of external genitalia and a loss of pubic and other bodily hair. The drinker tends to develop a pot belly, large breasts — the result of higher oestrogen levels — and skinny arms and legs. But women who drink in moderation need not fear that their female physical characteristics will disappear prematurely.

As always, the problem is that warnings about drinking to excess are directed at women who drink in moderation. This is demonstrated by the general approach to osteoporosis. No family health guide or women's magazine fails to mention the fact that alcohol contributes to osteoporosis, but few add that, whereas alcoholism and alcohol abuse are accepted risk factors, there seems to be little association between bone density and light to moderate alcohol intake. Studies have shown that bone density in post-menopausal women is not affected by modest drinking. As these studies have examined women who drink five to 14 units a week and

found no significant increase in the incidence of hip fracture, it seems safe to tell women that a daily drink — or perhaps even two — will not make their bones brittle.

As for women who drink during their reproductive years, the main concern has been for the babies they might conceive. The level of anxiety in the US and Canada about drinking during pregnancy seems to the British to be out of all proportion. No one denies the existence or seriousness of foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), which causes a child born to a heavy-drinking — usually socially deprived — mother the appearance of a mentally retarded, small-headed piglet. But it is said to occur only in women who regularly drink

more than two to 2.5 ounces (at least four units) of alcohol daily throughout early pregnancy. And population studies have shown that there is a greater risk of FAS among inner-city mothers. In 1987 a study carried out in America of 32,870 women, nearly half of whom had taken alcohol during pregnancy, failed to find one case of FAS. Another survey showed the syndrome had a direct relationship to prosperity; it was almost absent in the presumably better-nourished sections of society.

Binge drinking in pregnancy has also been studied, and there is evidence that, in some rare cases, as few as five units in a single sitting may have contributed to a low birth weight. But in 40 years of

medicine, I have looked after many mothers who knew their babies were conceived after an evening's heavy drinking, or who had drunk heavily before they were even aware that they were pregnant, and none of the children was adversely affected. Surprisingly, a 1995 report showed that women who were light drinkers in pregnancy had slightly heavier babies than those who did not drink at all.

I therefore feel confident in telling pregnant women that they need not be teetotal, but that they should drink only at formal or special occasions, with a meal and should not exceed two units in an evening or seven in a week.

● To Your Good Health: the Wise Drinker's Guide (Faber & Faber), by Dr Thomas Stuttaford. Readers of The Times can buy the book for £10.99 (hardback), a saving of £2 on the publisher's RRP of £12.99, or £7.99 (paperback) by calling The Times Bookshop, 0900 134 450

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'I'm in my prime, I can start again'

Sir Rocco Forte may have lost his company and his name but when it comes to business, he's just begun to sharpen the cleaver. Interview by Grace Bradberry

In January 1996, Sir Rocco Forte lost control of the vast business empire founded by his father, the Forte name, became the property of Granada, and Gerry Robinson, the chief executive, was suddenly entitled to the keys to Sir Rocco's splendidly appointed office in Bloomsbury.

After 21 months, I had rather expected Sir Rocco to have set himself up in similar style, in fact, he gives every impression of camping out in the modest offices he now occupies overlooking Lincoln's Inn Fields. He sits at a large glass table. On the wall behind him are a few architects' designs for the five-star hotel he is building in Cardiff.

Yet while the trappings of power may be gone, the manner remains. "How are you?" he inquires in a thoroughly patrician accent. A half-second later he smiles. It is a perfect piece of timing, born out of sheer self-confidence. One has just enough time to fear a forbidding encounter before the tan crinkles, and one is ambushed by his disarmingly direct gaze.

Once seated, he leans back. "My wife just called to say that our eldest daughter has been made head girl," he says. I assume this to be small talk, but Sir Rocco goes on, and outlines a contest of some intensity between Lydia, 10, and a classmate, the daughter of a leading financier, who was also tipped for the position. They have been rivals throughout, vying for the best test results, but friends as well. His daughter's victory was by no means a sure thing. "I think Lydia is the more rounded personality," he muses. It is clear that he has given considerable thought to the two girls' strengths and weaknesses, really felt for his daughter as she put her pride on the line.

Sir Rocco, of course, knows all about such head-to-heads. The battle to save the Forte group from Robinson's hostile takeover was an extremely personal and hard-fought one. In effect, Sir Rocco had to prove to the City that he was up to his job as executive chairman. By the end of two months many commentators thought he had — but he lost the company anyway.

Everything, from the Café Royal, the Waldorf and the Grosvenor House, right down to the Happy Eater chain, went to Granada. One can scarcely imagine what it must feel like to lose in a matter of weeks what it took one's father 50 years to build, starting from a single milk bar.

Sir Rocco remains a wealthy man but the power is gone. He owns one restaurant, Les Saveurs in Mayfair, and one hotel, The Balmoral in Edinburgh. Even the family name is no longer his own. "I can't actually use it. I probably can't use Rocco Forte or Rocco Forte Hotels," he would like it back, presumably. "Well, I mean — it would be nice. It's not the bell and end-all. It's irritating having your name banded about by someone else."

Irritating seems a rather small word. Indeed, Sir Rocco

is so urbane as he discusses the takeover that one feels like Oprah Winfrey inquiring if there weren't, also, a personal dimension to the battle. He starts for a minute, clearly aghast at the idiosyncrasy of the question. "Of course, there's a personal element," he says tersely. "It's a business. I'd worked in all my life, strived for, had ambitions for, erm, losing it in that way is not very pleasant."

This still seems a rather inadequate way of describing such a colossal humiliation, but he is clearly determined not to feel it too deeply. "It was worse for my father," he insists. "The company was his life's work and it's gone out of the window. That's sad. I can start again. He's not in that position."

Indeed, it must be dreadful for Lord Forte, who spent his life not only building the business, but also fighting for acceptance by the Establish-

ment, to see his work snatched away. As late as 1994, when the Fortes, father and son, were seeking control of the Savoy Group, one party muttered: "Hotels are for foreigners to stay in, not to own."

Did Sir Rocco experience xenophobia too? "School is where you'd experience that most, and I didn't," (He describes his years at Downside, the Roman Catholic public school, as "a perfectly reasonable experience.") As he points out, his father was an Italian in Britain just after the war, which created a particular set of problems. "He left Dumfries because he used to get into fights every day. That never happened to me."

His father's sense of acquired nationality even amused his son. "I remember him going to England-Scotland football matches with a tam-o'-shanter on his head. I'd say 'What are you doing in that?'"

Whatever his freedom to tease his father, however, there is no doubt that Sir Rocco was brought up with a strong sense of duty and dynasty. As a schoolboy, and then a student at Pembroke College, Oxford, he spent his holidays working in the cellars of the Café Royal, the jewel in the Forte crown. "My father was very keen — in a way he made sure that I would go into the business." He then tells an

unexpected anecdote of how, at 13, he played an Italian waiter in an ITV play. (Years later he ran into Michael Caine who told him he'd been in the same production.) "I got a lot of offers after that for all sorts of other things. My father said 'Do you want to become an actor?' So my face brightened up. 'Or do you want to work hard and go on to university then come into the business and run it with me?' 'I want to work hard, go on to university ...' he says, mimicking his subservient spiel and chuckling.

As he rose smoothly through the company, finally taking over in 1992, there were constant comparisons with his more extrovert father. Did this bother him? He narrows his eyes. "It's never been an issue with me. I've never been jealous of my father. I've been proud of him. In terms of people saying 'Is he as good as his father?' it was water off a duck's back. If I was good enough it would show through in the end." He was not to have the opportunity to realise his business plans and now regrets not publicising them better. "I've always been a great believer in letting results come through. Not saying what I'm going to do before I do it."

But at the suggestion that he might be building a second empire so that he, too, has something to hand to his son, six-year-old Charles, he becomes defensive. "It's personal," he begins. "I'm very much in my prime. To go away and do nothing and just have fun, I didn't like the idea of. I think, if I live to a relatively old age, I'd like to feel that I'd left something behind, created something." He doesn't want, he says, "to saddle" his son with anything. Nevertheless, he loves the hotel business. "When I was 20, girls were more exciting. Now it's the business," he spreads his hands and smiles.

The transition was gradual, and took a long time — he did not marry until he was 42. Before that there was a string of beautiful, well-connected girlfriends. In the end he married an Italian girl, Aliai Ricci, daughter of a neurologist. She was just 16 when they first met, and they were reintroduced at his 40th birthday party, by which time she was 18. No wonder he is already fearing the arrival of young men at his Chelsea home, hoping to date Lydia and her younger sister Irene.



"I cannot use the Forte name. I probably cannot use Rocco Forte either. It is irritating having your name banded about by someone else"

little bit objective about the sort of person you marry."

And his criteria? He fences: "I don't know. I suppose someone who had a sense of fun and a sense of the home."

"She was very young then, she was 20, and she has changed — for the better I think. Nothing to do with me," he says, and gives that urbane laugh of his. At first it was hard for her, he admits. His social life revolved around the business. Many of their dinner companions would be sixtyish. "I think she found it tiring and tiresome. Occasionally, she said to me 'Can't we go out with some young people?' Young meant under 50."

It is a marriage run on very traditional lines. She runs the house. He runs the business. During the takeover her role was to have dinner on the table at ten o'clock when he arrived home, often with executives. "I think she was quite emotional about the whole

thing. She tried to glean some scraps of information about what was going on then. I didn't have time to tell her. She must have been frustrated."

One wonders what they have in common. "Back to the agony aunt questions," he groans. To discuss his marriage in such terms, rather than with reference to his wife's beauty or artistic talent would be undignified. He struggles gamely on. "She likes music, she likes going to the opera. I'm not a great opera fan, but I like going to concerts a lot, so that's something we share. She likes going to museums, that's not ... I've always found it difficult to spare the time ... He has more time now — but he still prefers to play golf."

One would think from this that he were a man's man. This is not really the case. With women, including myself, he is immensely charming and courteous. With men I

suspect he is far more competitive, less open. His *Who's Who* entry makes no mention of clubs, though he is a member of the Garrick. "I don't go in there much. I'm not a very clubby sort of man. Having a number of restaurants to go to — or rather used to — if someone said come and have lunch with me and I'd said 'We're going to the Garrick' when we could have gone to the Hyde Park, it would have looked a bit odd."

It was Rocco Forte who installed Marco Pierre White at the Hyde Park Hotel and Nico Ladenis at the Grosvenor. Like them, his manner has softened somewhat. "Everyone says I'm much nicer since I got married. I think I mellowed a bit," he concedes. But as a businessman one senses that he is only just sharpening the cleaver.

● The 1997 Restaurant Show at Olympia National Hall, London, ends today

BRIEF

Arrive tiet soil

air troops parachuted into
of joint peacekeeping
et republics (Robin Lodge
st of their kind to involve
former Soviet territory, will
400 men from more than a

improving co-ordination
of the former Soviet bloc
nder of US Atlantic forces.
"The US interest is that the
stability." But he added: "A
that there is no nation on the
get to"

e in Ukraine

part in a military exercise
first time to strengthen links
between the two countries.
Squadrons from the 2nd
Airborne Regiment, backed by
armoured and field ambulances,
paratroops from
the 1st Airborne Division, and
the 1st Airborne Division, will
be sent to Warsaw, will be
conducting a series of exercises
between British
and Ukrainian troops.

ignals change

National minority Labour
party in the country voted
for the Labour's support
in the election. The two final
rounds of the election over health
and education, and 34.3 per
cent of the vote went to the
Labour party, a result — not
too far from the result — not
too far from the result. (Reuter)

urder target



to Iran

Iranian foreign minister
said that Iran was prepared
to discuss the issue of the
nuclear weapons. He said
that Iran was not a threat
to the world. He said that
Iran was a peaceful country
and that it was not a threat
to the world. (Reuter)

Bosnia stay

The British government
has decided to send a
contingent of British troops
to Bosnia. The troops will
be sent to Bosnia to help
with the peacekeeping
operation. (Reuter)

in Alps

The British government
has decided to send a
contingent of British troops
to the Alps. The troops will
be sent to the Alps to help
with the peacekeeping
operation. (Reuter)

Assemblage

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Philippe de
Rothschild

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and it is a
like a turning
fork.

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you need a
courtesy and
a friend.

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CADET

Two big hands for Steinbeck

YOU can almost smell the heat and dust rising off Ian Brown's compelling production of John Steinbeck's classic. From the moment the dirty, itinerant heroes, George and the feeble-minded Lennie, pitch up on Robin Don's shimmering prairie set, the potential for a tragic mess seems an aching inevitability.

George, a decent-hearted hobo who inherited Lennie with all the enthusiasm of a ball and chain, looks out for both of them as they drift west, scrabbling to earn a bit of stake money to buy their own piece of the American Dream. Lennie, a physically awesome giant with the mind of a child, treats his friend like his only parent. If the scenario seems in any way familiar it's because the novel continues to spawn celluloid clones in Hollywood. But when Steinbeck wrote this as a novel in 1937 (he always had every intention of turning it into a stage play), the dust bowls and the Wall Street Crash were still grim facts of life.

The wit and pleasure of Brown's production is how he suspends the predictable for two hours and 40 minutes. Turning up at a ranch for piece-work, George is forced to contend with a team of hard-bitten sharks, racists and old-timers who treat Lennie like a freak. Chief villain is Gary Whittaker's explosive Curley. Driven by his own nasty inadequacies, the pint-sized boss's son loses no opportunity to have a pop at Lennie, with finger-crunching results.

With his wonderful deep, hollow voice, Tim Perrin manages the tricky feat of turning Lennie into an endearing and

THEATRE

Of Mice and Men
West Yorkshire
Playhouse

frustrating liability whose affectionate but fatal mishaps with mice and small dogs don't deter him from wanting to keep the corpses. It is an outstanding performance, sensitively shepherded by Martin Marquez, who shrewdly plays George on the wrong side of nice.

The harsh irony of Steinbeck's work is the claustrophobia that settles around his characters in this wide open space. Living and working in close proximity, small gripes grow into festering itches. Yet the outstanding feature of the play is loneliness and isolation. Like everyone else on the ranch, Karl Glenn Stimpson's mule skinner can't understand the strange and unnatural chemistry of one man looking out for another, especially when one partner almost certainly costs the other his share of the dream.

If George's philanthropy looks saintly it's because Steinbeck couldn't resist the obvious sentimentality. However, the deep need to commune, rather than repress, is felt by everyone from Geoff Francis's black (and hence battered) stable hand to Curley's sultry wife who hangs around the workers' quarters like a cloud of cheap trouble (an impressive professional debut by Tamzin Mallett).

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Many voices with a single mouth

THE avenue is in Manhattan and the Prince is Hamlet, or rather a succession of the elderly residents of the Jewish retirement home who are rehearsing the role but expire before the performance. Eventually the 83-year-old Otto Kerner takes on the welcome duty, and it is his commentary, crisply phrased yet generally benign, that conjures up the bickering, blustering fellowship of the residents of the Emma Lazarus home.

Alan Isler's excellent novel was published here two years ago and is now adapted by Kerry Shale, who speaks all the numerous parts himself: booming Benno Hamburger; simpering Tosca Davidovich; the heavyweight down to play Ophelia; Lazar Poliakoff, the snarling Stalinist. Shale thumbnails them with a gesture, a twist of the mouth and a pertinent tone of voice. I suspect he has introduced the line where Kerner confesses, "I'm told I have a modest gift for mimicry," but the addition is appropriate when a written memoir is turned into spoken recollection.

Life at the Emma Lazarus makes good entertainment, but there is more substance to the book than that, and to Shale's adaptation too. For Kerner remembers the painful growth away from priggish sexual ignorance, the occasion when he finds the

The Prince of
West End
Hampstead

woman he adored in bed with Tristram Tzara directly bearing upon Hamlet's feelings for the Queen. Shale leaves out Kerner's significant meeting with Lenin, and his unappreciated encounter with James Joyce, but some things have to go, and these episodes take the tale too close to Stoppard's *Travesties*.

So far the mood has been wryly fond, even tender. But then he marries, becomes a father. The role of businessman oppresses him, but at last he has the chance to resume the literary career interrupted by the First World War. What he then writes, eagerly, smugly, even after *Kristallnacht*, is the anguished substance of the evening's second half.

Directed by Sonia Fraser on an almost bare stage (designed by Jessica Stack), where memory creates a spread of leafless branches across the plain walls, Shale's impersonations, rapidly succeeding each other, are more than technically clever. He shifts the emotional level with the same skill, his voice seeming to hollow out as he recalls the marriage he wrecked.

How this fatal disaster began is too cursorily told — as it is in the book — but no matter: the performance creates an absorbing evening of humour, history and pathos.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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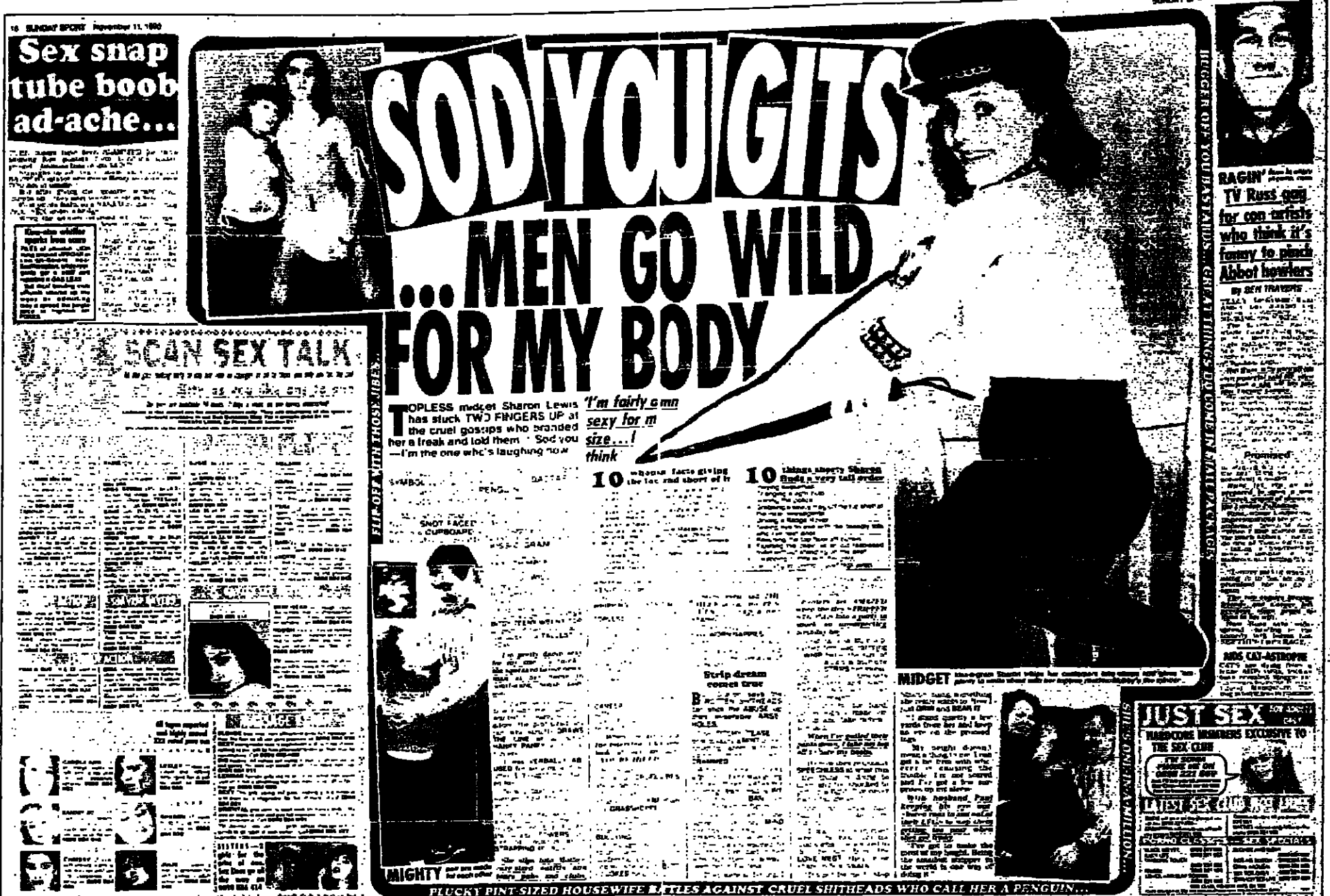
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Richard Cork on the Royal Academy's sensational show of works from Charles Saatchi's collection



"An awareness of how female sexuality is distorted by the tabloid press": *Sod You Gits* (1990) by Sarah Lucas, one of Charles Saatchi's protégées bound for the Royal Academy.

The Establishment clubbed

Until now, Charles Saatchi has displayed his extraordinary collection in a converted factory in St John's Wood. This week, though, the most munificent patron of young British artists has made a risky move. The bulk of his holdings in the work produced by this feisty new generation is invading the august portals of the Royal Academy. Flaunting its ability to ignite controversy, the show has been given the inflammatory title *Sensation*. The rebels have stormed the bastions of conservatism, and howls from outraged academicians are still bouncing around the walls of Burlington House.

By making an hysterical attempt to ban Marcus Harvey's painting of Myra Hindley, the crustiest academicians have revealed just how ugly their censorious hatred can be. If they do fulfil the threat to resign in protest, their departure will be the Academy's gain. It has spent much of the 20th century condemning the most vital impulses in modern art, and the advent of the Saatchi Collection was bound to be ferociously resisted by its most diehard members. So I am delighted that the exhibition will open on Thursday, with the Hindley painting defiantly in place. The show's arrival is a welcome sign that the Academy has belatedly decided to

atone for its disgraceful, antiquated intolerance in the past. The first room, inevitably, is dominated by Damien Hirst's iconic tiger shark, eerily suspended in its tank of misty green formaldehyde. Now all of six years old, the notorious behemoth is beginning to look rather frayed, and seems far less disturbing than Hirst's later sliced animals.

Aware of the gallery's historical context, the organisers have cleverly pinpointed new British art's links with tradition. Surrounded here by Mark Wallinger's immaculate, frieze-like paintings of thoroughbred racehorses, some reflected in the glass tank, the stillness of the shark shares their kinship with the work of George Stubbs. Even a work as provocative as Marc Quinn's blood-saturated head, refrigerated inside its steel and Perspex sculpture, seems surprisingly at home here. It has been placed, with a feeling for ironic juxtaposition, below classical roundels filled with noble 19th-century heads of Renaissance masters. Part of the room's original architecture, they suggest that the Academy is far more conscious of the art of the past than its detractors might suppose.

So is Rachel Whiteread. Although she casts most of her sculptures from ordinary household objects, they end up stirring memories of antiquity. Even her masterpiece, the aptly named *Ghost*, trans-

scends its origins as the cast of a commonplace London living room. Majestically positioned at the far end of a suite of galleries, this purged and melancholy plaster can already be ranked among the classic British sculptures of the present century.

Scattered across the wall opposite *Ghost*, Richard Billingham's powerful colour photographs remind us of the turbulent lives that might once have been led inside Whitehead's now-silent living room. Based on his own dysfunctional family, Billingham's intimate pictures frankly depict the tension, boredom and pathos of existence inside this claustrophobic home. But his painter's eye ensures that some of these images, especially of his mother, possess an unexpected magnificence as well.

Not all the Academy's rooms boast such pertinent pairings of artists. Whitehead's *Untitled (One Hundred Spaces)*, with its glowing blocks of resin ranged in orderly ranks like gravestones in a war cemetery, deserves to be displayed on its own. But paintings by artists such as Simon Callery and Keith Covey have been ranged above,

and their diversity is a distraction. In his St John's Wood gallery, Saatchi never mixes exhibitors together.

Hirst is seen at his roughest in the room containing his bisected pig, its two halves echoing the movement of a slicing machine as they glide slowly past each other on a motorised track. Placed near his earlier *A Thousand Years*, where a decaying cow's head lies in a gruesome smear of blood beset by flies, the pig sculpture sums up Hirst's ability to tackle death with mordant humour. Alain Miller's virtuoso painting *Eye Love Eye*, hung near by, pursues the same rotting-meat theme in terms of a staring human face.

Those who protest that *Sensation* is a "conceptual" conspiracy hatched by malignant "anti-art" forces take no account of the painters plentifully on view here. They show how catholic Saatchi's taste really is. At one extreme, he savours the severe, minimalist abstraction of Jason Martin, while at the other Jenny Saville's colossal paintings of mountainous female nudes could hardly be more figurative. She is the most "academic" artist to be found here, and yet her preoccupation with

cosmetic surgery makes her work chime with the darker obsessions pursued by other, less conventional exhibitors. Fiona Rae continues to beguile and astound with her virtuoso, exclamatory canvases. She is most effectively displayed in one of the most flamboyant rooms, where Yinka Shonibare's trio of headless women swathed in wax-print cotton textiles are as shameless, in their way, as Gary Hume's brazen *Transvestite* near by. Anyone who accuses the new British art of joylessness should look out for Hume's work, scattered through the show and enlivening it at every turn with instinctive vivacity.

However much Hume may owe to Matisse, though, he is sinister as well as sensual. And none of the other artists could be described as straightforwardly celebratory. Even Chris Ofili, whose extravagant and orgiastic paintings flaunt glitter and map pins among the swirls of oil and acrylic, rests all his paintings on balls of elephant dung. Mona Hatoum invites us to sit down at a table laid for a meal and then confronts us, on an otherwise empty plate, with a surgical camera's exploration of her mouth, throat and stomach. Tracey Emin is even more willing to indulge in self-exposure, encouraging us to

crawl inside a tent embroidered with the names of *Everyone I have ever slept with*.

There is nothing discreet or costly reassuring about new British art. Taking as their springboard a celebrated Goya etching of war's atrocity, Jake & Dinos Chapman produce their own sculptural version peopled with shop-window mannequins. It spares us nothing in terms of gory mutilation, just as Sarah Lucas's *Bunny* twists the female body into a grotesquely deformed figure. Obsessed with violation, her art is fuelled by disgust, private pain and an awareness, in *Sod You Gits*, of how female sexuality is distorted by the tabloid press.

Lucas refuses to ignore the least palatable aspects of late 20th-century life, and this is the grim context in which Harvey's painting of Myra Hindley deserves to be placed. Far from cynically exploiting her notoriety, Harvey's grave and monumental canvas succeeds in conveying the enormity of the crime she committed. Seen from afar, through several doorways, Hindley's face looms at us like an apparition. By the time we get close enough to realise that it is spattered with children's handprints, the sense of menace becomes overwhelming.

● *Sensation at the Royal Academy, London W1 (0171-439 7438) from Thurs until Dec 28*

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

MURIEL PEMBERTON, who died in 1993, was a painter with a strong sense of theatrical flourish. Best known for her influence on clothes design — she taught many subsequently famous designers, including Bill Gibb and Bruce Oldfield — she adopted what was essentially a painterly approach: her pupils were encouraged to sketch fashion designs freehand in watercolour. She was passionately committed to watercolour throughout her life, regularly painting landscapes, flower-pieces and abstracts in a dazzling range of saturated colours. The memorial show at Chris Beetles is in effect a studio sale, covering her brilliant fashion work as well as the paintings she regularly showed at the Royal Academy and the Royal Watercolour Society from the 1930s on. Surely if she had

been less famous for fashion she would have been more famous for art. *Chris Beetles, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (0171-839 7551), until Oct 3*

IN CONTRAST, Alison Lambert eschews colour completely in her new show — if, that is, you do not regard her infinite gradations of black charcoal on white paper as a colour effect in itself. Nor are her large drawings simply works on paper. She continues to pursue the strange effects produced by building up the paper on which her drawings are made almost as one would construct in papier mâché, irregular fragments applied one on top of another until something like the surface of antique, crumbling plaster is obtained. The subjects are redolent of classical myth, even if precise references are

usually lacking. These figures of humans or of bulls seem to belong to a distant world in which Poussin would have felt completely at home, but at the same time the sensibility is completely modern, without the faintest hint of modish Post-Modern pastiche. *Jill George Gallery, 38 Lexington Street, W1 (0171-439 7419), until Oct 17*

THE subjects of the new show by Suzanne Perlmutter are all drawn from the infinite variety of London, and show a city at once familiar and unfamiliar, transfigured by an Expressionist force of emotion and the light that never was on land or sea. *Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NWS (0171-624 1126), until Oct 10*

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Winner goes for a song

As soon as the American baritone Marcus DeLoach had flung down the final laconic words of Charles Ives's song, *Charlie Ruttage* in his semi-final recital, I knew he was home and dry. A well-groomed voice, a flair for programme shaping, a fervent desire to communicate, and, above all, that elusive fusion of instinct and understanding which sparks a quality of imagination transcending mere accomplishment. This is what the jury was looking for, and this is what enabled the 23-year-old DeLoach to walk away with £12,000, donated by the Kohn Foundation, as the winner of the first Wigmore Hall International Song Competition.

The jury's decision was unanimous. This was unsurprising, as the semi-finals had thrown up a generally dull dozen. Perhaps the competition had been trawling the wrong fishing grounds; or perhaps the stocks are, after all, running low. Perhaps, given the Wigmore Hall's own ever-regenerating roster of young singers, we had been expecting too much.

All too few singers showed DeLoach's awareness of the need to sell a song through the hard working of its words: his two sets of American songs, including five Copland settings, gripped the attention even in the most familiar lines. And few showed real understanding of their non-native

languages and idioms. Even DeLoach's delivery grew more tense in Schubert and Fauré despite his good German and French. DeLoach has also recently won a Young Artist Award from the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis: one can only hope he will use his Wigmore prize money in the service of song itself.

Many punters had put their money on the 28-year-old German baritone Sebastian Noack. The jury's decision to award him only second prize was encouraging. It showed that a well-schooled and fluent command of Lieder was not their prime criterion. Noack had learnt many of the tricks of the trade, and was particularly convincing in his Schubert. But he had a tendency to bludgeen his audience rather than to woo them.

Seduction was more the way of the gentle Stockholm-born baritone Herman Wallén who, at 19, showed great sensitivity to the innermost spirit of a song, be it the

bittersweet fancy of Samuel Barber or the Gallic wit of Poulenc. With guidance, his voice will doubtless begin to find firmer focus, and learn to define and project a performance more boldly.

The declared intention of what has proved a uniquely good-natured and thoughtful competition is to extend awareness and appreciation of the richness of the song repertoire itself. In providing no fewer than 52 recitals in a week, it has uncovered much that is rich and strange. Alison Bauld's *Banquo's Buried*, Rautavaara's *Shakespeare Sonnets*, Rangström's *Kung Eriks Visor* took their place beside classics of the repertoire. The accompanist's prize, won by the outstanding Dutch pianist, Roger Braun, underlines the seriousness and inclusiveness of a competition whose continuation can only provide much-needed support for a vulnerable art form which is yet at the very core of human expression.

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D/EE
THE SCHOOL LEAVING LAW HAS CHANGED!
This is important news for young people who'll be 16 during this school year, and for their parents and their future employers.
There is now a single date when young people can legally leave school and take a full time job. That date is the last Friday in June; in 1998 it will be FRIDAY 26 JUNE. Young people will be able to leave before then even if they're already 16. The Government intends that the change in the law will help more young people get GCSEs and other useful qualifications, and benefit from high-quality work experience, before they leave school.
Further details are available from schools, local education authorities, the Careers Service or Job Centres, or by writing to: School Attendance Team, DfEE, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. Email: info@dfee.gov.uk

Let's hear it for Black Wednesday

Major's disaster was our gain, says Anatole Kaletsky

Was John Major right, after all? Five years ago today, the former Prime Minister suffered the greatest humiliation of his career. Indeed, to judge by the instant collapse of the Tories' opinion poll ratings and the unprecedented swing against them in the subsequent general election, the pound's expulsion from the European exchange-rate mechanism on Black Wednesday, September 16, 1992, was perhaps the greatest political catastrophe to have befallen a British Government outside wartime.

Mr Major was soon being accused of manifest incompetence in his decision to join the ERM at an overvalued exchange rate. He was charged with outright stupidity for wasting the Bank of England's currency reserves in his futile attempt to keep sterling above the magic ERM level of DM2.78. If only Mr Major had accepted that exchange rates were not national totems, but simply prices, which must reflect the economic fundamentals. If only he had heeded the "siren voices" who told him that British industry was being permanently crippled by the overvalued currency. If only Mr Major had under-

So does today's economic competitiveness imply that Britain could have soldiered on in the ERM if Mr Major had somehow succeeded in defending the pound? The answer is probably yes.

If Mr Major had managed to persuade the German Government and the Bundesbank to back sterling as visibly and decisively as they backed the French franc in its numerous crises, it can be said with the benefit of hindsight that the pound could probably have been defended at DM2.95. Would the country and the Government have been better off or worse off if Germany had come to the pound's defence?

Mr Major's political fortunes would not have been improved if we had stayed in the ERM. If the pound had been rescued with German help then, Britain would have been forced to become a founder member of the European monetary union. From that moment on, any deviation from European orthodoxy by our Government would have been punished by speculative attacks on the pound and a removal of the implicit Bundesbank guarantee. Ignoring the loss of economic sovereignty implied by joining EMU in the long term, the short-term political costs of commitment to fast-track EMU membership would have been horrendous, since the public sector deficit would have been reduced through tax increases far tougher than any undertaken by Kenneth Clarke and Norman Lamont.

His policies would have put a million on the dole

Hear, hear, to all that. Everybody now knows that politicians "can't buck the markets" and that currency dealers know best. Yet, to look back after five years of economic prosperity and liberation, one nagging paradox does arise. If Mr Major was really so stupid, and if the speculators were so clever, how is it that history has proved the former Prime Minister to have been right and the markets wrong?

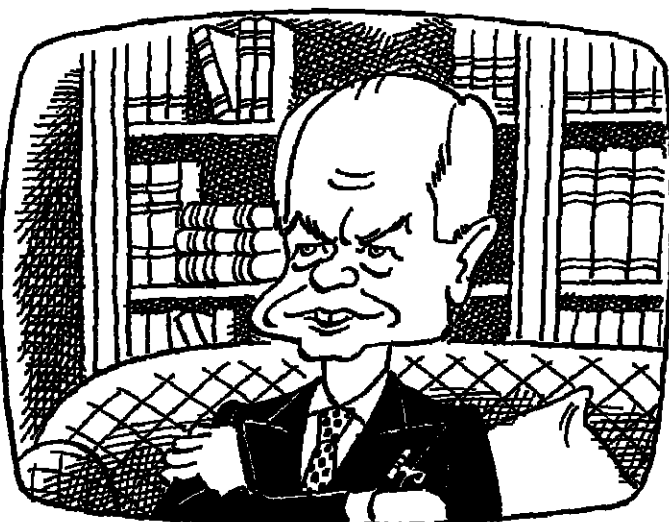
Today, after all, the pound is back at DM2.83, well above the old ERM floor. A few weeks ago it was soaring towards its old ERM ceiling of DM3.13. If the omniscient markets were right to believe on Black Wednesday that the pound was hopelessly overvalued, why do we now have the lowest unemployment, the fastest economic growth and the most popular Government in Europe?

One possible answer to this paradox can, I think, be dismissed. Some economists believe that British industry is as vulnerable today as it was then: the economy will go down the drain, they argue, if sterling remains much longer in the "overvalued" territory it has occupied this year.

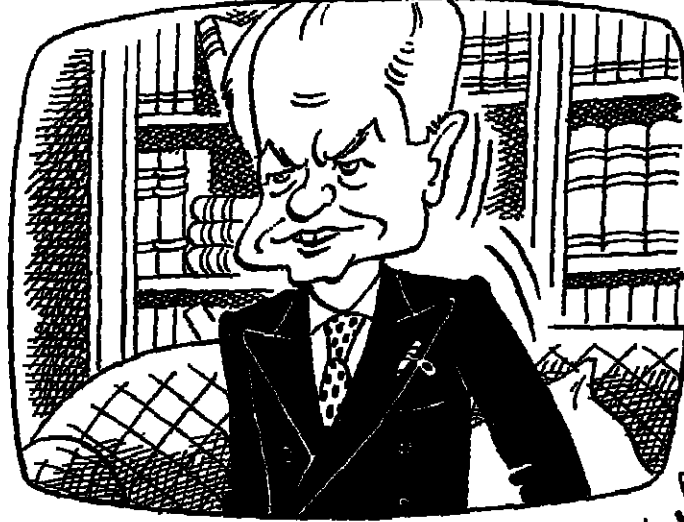
However, exports are growing, the balance of payments is strong and jobs are being created, despite the depressed state of demand in many European markets. Exporting companies are generally coping with the high exchange rate, albeit at the cost of lower profits than a year ago. While most companies and their shareholders would certainly prefer a less demanding exchange rate, few directors or stock market analysts seem to view the difference between a pound worth DM2.90 and one worth DM2.60 as a matter of life or death.

Eventually, though, Britain would have begun to recover in late 1993, along with the economies of Germany and France. British interest rates would have stayed higher for longer than they did in the aftermath of Black Wednesday. But in the end they would also have fallen even further — to the level of 3 per cent now seen in Germany and France. British unemployment, however, would still be above 10 per cent, as in those two countries, instead of the present 5.9 per cent. To put it another way, if Mr Major's policies had "succeeded" on Black Wednesday, a million more Britons would still be on the dole five years on.

In sum, a further generation of Britons would have had their lives blighted by mass unemployment. And the country would have lost forever the right to manage its own economy — a right which has proved so valuable in the past five years. These would have been the costs of Mr Major being proved right.



... CAPITAL OUT OF THIS TRAGEDY.



HOW DID I DO, SIR DAVID?"

... CAPITAL OUT OF THIS TRAGEDY.

HOW DID I DO, SIR DAVID?"

People who need people

Talk of a kinder country is fine, but who will halt the rush to downsize?

The point is made, the long andante finished. It is time to stop sniffling, put our jackets back on and step up the tempo. Let us talk of bus conductors, park-keepers and men with mops.

For we know the message now: everybody, from Mr Blair down, has made it clear that this is now officially a kinder, more huggable Britain. The word "People" has been printed so often that it is starting to look odd. Analysts agree that after two breast-heaving emotional catharses in half a year, we have cast off cruel shoulder-padded 1980s individualism and become Nice. On May 2 and August 31 alike, vox pops and national leaders assured us that things are different now: more human and lovable and local, more about people, less about systems. It is a bit like living in the last few pages of *A Christmas Carol*... God bless us, every one!

Which brings me to the bus conductors. Scrooge, in his unreformed phase, has been running Britain for far too long, and the vanishing bus conductor is the symbol of his chilly power. At the British Association last week, its president, Sir Derek Roberts, spoke of one-man buses clogging up city streets and increasing pollution. He said that getting rid of conductors may have made a marginal saving but it led to greater costs overall. Buses stop while people pay, which holds up traffic, causing fumes, delay, stress, and general inefficiency.

It is a grim reflection on modern business practice that it drives the British Association to say something so obvious. Common sense could have told the bus companies that getting rid of conductors was a burn idea from the start. Common purpose should have made the Government stop them doing it. Not only has it made buses less observable, but also less safe and less sociable for all (including the unfortunate driver). It was a mean, narrow piece of thinking, devoid of vision, imagination and a sense of how humanity works. And as such, it was absolutely typical of life today.

Mechanistic, short-sighted short-termism has damaged government, business, health, happiness and morale, and in the end saved nothing. Sir Derek also cited the Alzheimer's drug Aricept, which the NHS considers too expensive. He complains in baffled tones that this verdict fails

even to take into account the obvious saving to the welfare system if thousands of carers were released from their 24-hour burden.

But then, Sir Derek is an engineer; to him it must be second nature to look beyond the actual bolt you are fiddling with. If members of his profession took to economising on head-gaskets, laying off quality controllers because they haven't found any faults that week, or re-drawing bridge arches to use less steel, things would fall visibly to pieces and they would get blamed. By contrast, managers and ministers have been

All right, Britco may like working that way and truly believe itself to be "efficient". It is a private company and may go to the devil its own way. But the same management-school naivete has blighted public services, too. For 20 years it has been axiomatic that anybody who takes a proprietorial pride and delight in doing a simple service job must be sacked, and replaced by some small fraction of a contract company which doesn't give a damn. Sometimes they are not replaced at all: in any dole queue you may find people to look at some local building, footpath, playground or apparatus and say "I used to look after that, breaks my heart to see it the way it is now".

We close down things to make "economies" without ever studying the wider social (and therefore economic) benefits they might have had. Schools have gone, crippling communities; so have cottage hospitals. Yet when they closed our local maternity hospital nobody even attempted to quantify its wider benefits, or see how well patients did in the months after leaving it, compared with mothers who went to the city hospital. The little hospital gave close nursing care, breast-feeding help, peace and serenity; my munch is (we shall never know, because nobody asked) that its mothers and babies ended up costing the nation far less in medicines, antidepressants and social care than those who had a rushed stay in the big acute hospital.

And who has ever worked out the cost in vandalism and degraded environments of cutting back on park-keepers and pedestrian policemen? Or the cost in lifelong illiteracy of maintaining huge primary school classes? Who has estimated the number of rail journeys crossly aborted in favour of the car, simply because the new central enquiry number needs to have obscure station names spelt out for it, and has no idea at all whether your elderly aunt will have to climb any stairs between platforms if she

changes at Peterborough? Has coastal safety really benefited from the fact that when you ring the coastguard he is in a windowless room 20 miles inland, not in a hut on a cliff-top? Is road safety well served by the way that most garages are no longer manned by people who know anything about strange smells from under the bonnet of cars, but by one cashier not allowed to leave her bulletproof glass cubicle?

A great many of the false economies which plague us have involved getting rid of employees, which is understandable. The industrial disputes and demands of the 1970s convinced employers that human beings were the most troublesome of raw materials, to be kept to a minimum. Periodic shakeouts are inevitable in any organisation, and the demand to "protect jobs" for their own sake was always stupid. A heavy burden of blame for all our present troubles should be borne by all those governments which were not tough enough to say so, and which cumbered employers with unreasonable responsibilities.

But the pendulum has swung too far: a mass of necessary, effective, socially desirable jobs such as bus-conducting and minding municipal flowerbeds and answering telephones have been lost, while countless people with intelligence and goodwill and a capacity for loyalty are drawing the dole. Yet for a remedy we do not look outward and backward to a more sociable, well-manned age: we look inward. We splash out on ever madder management theories, expensive consultants, wordy mission statements and focus weekends in country house hotels. We create new jobs, but only useless ones.

Even the most practical professions are beset by this nonsense. I treasure a story told to me by a hospital radiographer. He came in one morning to find that overnight a patient had died in his scanner, which therefore needed immediate cleaning before the day's appointments. He rang up and asked for a man with a mop. Instead, after a lengthy interval he got an NHS trust administrator with a clipboard to do a Cleaning Needs Assessment. She had no mop. You can draw all sorts of morals from this tale, but maybe we should link it to the current rhetoric. If we're so fond of the People, why not start by hiring some?

Balloting Britain by new rules

Referendums need a legal framework, says Robert Hazell

Last week the people of Scotland were consulted; this week it is the turn of the people of Wales. But that is not the end of the referendum story. Next year it will be London's turn, when five million voters are invited to endorse the Government's plans for a new Greater London Authority. And the year after that we may all vote in a nationwide referendum on electoral reform for the House of Commons — and possibly on entry into the European single currency.

Each of us may vote in as many as three referendums during this Parliament in the two nationwide polls and on devolution for our part of the kingdom. After Scotland, Wales, and London, other devolution referendums to which the Government is committed are in Northern Ireland, to approve the terms of any peace settlement, and in the regions of England, should it get so far as establishing regional assemblies.

We are stumbling into this in a typically British, make-it-up-as-you-go fashion. But referendums need rules. Our only previous experience of them dates from the 1970s, when, as now, they came in a wave. There was the Northern Ireland border poll of 1973, the referendum on the renegotiated terms of accession to the EEC in 1975, and the Scottish and Welsh referendums in 1979. It did not occur to the last Labour Government to devise a set of rules, because it did not occur to it that referendums would be used at all frequently. Although James Callaghan recognised that the referendum might be a "last, desperate lifeline" into which any government might be obliged to climb, Harold Wilson was at pains to reassure Parliament in 1975 that he was determined not to repeat "the constitutional experiment of the referendum".

There is less excuse for such a relaxed attitude now, as the dangerous constitutional innovation of the 1970s becomes the standby of the 1990s. But what kind of rules might be required? The most obvious ones would prescribe when governments should be obliged to hold a referendum. There is an understandable wish to codify what kinds of constitutional change must be referred to the electorate, given the endless wrangling over Maastricht and monetary union. Understandable, but very difficult to achieve with our unwritten constitution.

Even countries with codified constitutions often find them silent on the use of the referendum and the rules are left to the government to decide. In the United Kingdom it is doubly difficult because, without a written constitution, there is no accepted way of defining a "constitutional issue". The Constitutional Conference of 1910, held to resolve the possibility of deadlock between the House of Lords and the Commons, wrestled with precisely this question; but all proposals foundered on the difficulty (and, some believe, the undesirability) of distinguishing constitutional from ordinary legislation.

Even when used simply as a political device, referendums still need rules to ensure that they are fairly conducted, and that the results are accepted as legitimate. Take, for example, the devolution campaigns in Scotland and Wales, where the Government either has, or is about to, distribute a summary of its proposals to every household. A video is also available. No such facilities have been offered to "no" campaigners. But in 1975, both "yes" and "no" leaflets were distributed at the taxpayers' expense. In countries with laws governing referendums, the electorate is assured of both sides of the argument.

In future referendums, the Government should separate the roles of player and umpire, giving the task of umpire to an independent commission, as is done in Australia, New Zealand, and Quebec. The commission would advise on the wording of the referendum question, liaise with campaign groups, ensure the fair presentation of public information and supervise the poll.

The referendum on electoral reform may bring all of this closer. The Government is pledged to hold that referendum during this Parliament, which locks it into an alarmingly tight timetable. If the electorate votes for change, people will be surprised if the next general election is not conducted under the new system. The Government may not seek a vote for change, but it will still need to put in place machinery to bring it about.

Central to this is an electoral commission, which could implement the necessary boundary reviews more swiftly and effectively than existing Boundary Commissions. Most Commonwealth countries have electoral commissions, which conduct referendums where they are held. If the Government is smart, it will provide for such a commission in the legislation authorising the referendum on electoral reform — and charge it with ensuring that in future our referendums have rules.

Robert Hazell is the Director of the Constitution Unit, University College London, and was a member of the Independent Commission on the Conduct of Referendums.

Final score

A MUSIC master at Cheltenham Ladies College, that bastion of feminine innocence and decorum, has left the school abruptly after his friendship with a pupil came to the attention of the headmistress.

Last week Vicky Tuck, principal, informed members of the choir — hard at work preparing for a performance of the *Messiah* — that John Wright, the choir-master, would not be returning this term to continue the musical education of his charges. She blamed his relationship with a girl in the upper

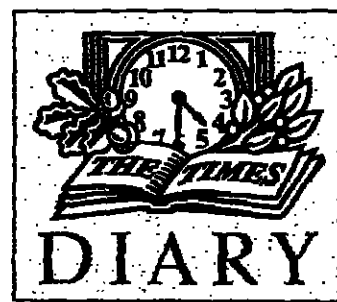
sixth, whose name has been passed to me but chivalry prevents me from disclosing. She told the girls not to speak of this in case it should get into the newspapers.

The school — whose alumni include Kristin Scott-Thomas, Virginia Bottomley, Stella Rimington and Maggie Smith — confirm he "left very suddenly" last week.

When one of my staff rang Mr Wright, he said: "Anything that is to be said, should be said by the head mistress." Ms Tuck was equally quiet. "I am not here to



Cheltenham girls in much earlier days



Speak about people that I care for," she offered, rather oddly. "I have nothing else to say."

B and B

PACEY thrillers and yellowing copies of *Jane's Defence Weekly* might be considered the extent of James Bond's literary tastes. But Pierce Brosnan, who plays Bond, has a most peculiar penchant for Dylan Thomas.

Brosnan is negotiating to buy the late poet's bed. Stationed on Thomas's houseboat, it was given to Tom Watts by Caitlin, Dylan's wife, in 1972, when she left the area. "It's just a simple double-bed," says Watts, of Browns Hotel, an favourite West Wales watering hole of the poet's. "I suppose it could tell a few tales."

Brosnan saw the bed, and a table

at which Thomas wrote *Under Milk Wood*, in the bar when he visited Laugharne recently. He was amazed to find both in use. "You have a very valuable item of furniture," Brosnan told me, "said Watts. "He then asked to buy it. "The bed is for Brosnan's son, one Dylan Thomas."

Sharp practice

SHARPENING his blade, Archie "the axe" Norman is bringing su-



"We will now sing that fine Welsh song, *Keep the Home Fires Burning*"

permarket management techniques to Tory Central Office.

Unidentified men in suits have been pacing around the building, casually asking people exactly what they do. All too often an awkward silence has followed, and staff are digging in for a fight against the Asda whizzkid and new party vice-chairman.

"We are terrified," says one. "We suspect he will be brutal and will bring in a small group of managers." Regional representatives have been summoned to Central Office; many are expected to make their journey home, as Lord Tebbit would have it, on their bicycles.

My picture, right, depicts Louise King, who is to star opposite Hugh Grant in *Notting Hill*, a romantic comedy sending up trustafarians. Liz Hurley is not alarmed — Louise is a friend and the girlfriend of William Cash. One problem: for the kiss, Grant will have to climb on steps as Miss King is well over 6ft tall.

Faith triumphs

IF putting your daughter on the stage is a risky venture, releasing her into the care of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity would seem a fairly sure way of protecting her virtue.

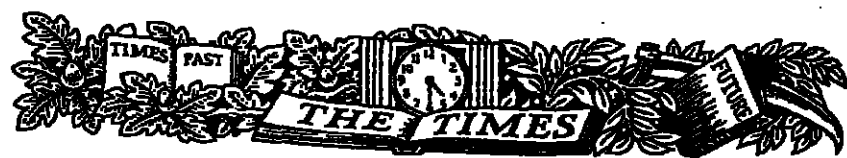


But the father of Sister Nirmali Joshi, Mother Teresa's successor, was doubtful. Mahananda Joshi arrived at Mother Teresa's Calcutta home to remove his daughter — with a shotgun.

The threat was real. A devout Hindu, he was military policeman and knew how to use a gun. He threatened to shoot his daughter if she did not return home. Despite looking down the wrong end of a twelve-bore, she refused. Mother Teresa insisted that the girl should be allowed "to do God's will". The father bristled, looked at Mother Teresa standing firm, and, wisely, retreated.

P.H.S

SEPTEMBER 16 1997
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Britain by
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s Robert Hazell



BLAIR AND THE BISHOPS

The Prime Minister should not genuflect to shallow traditions

A power is not wrongly exercised for being rarely exercised. The Prime Minister is well within his rights to reject the Church of England's two candidates for the vacant bishopric of Liverpool. The suggestion by Anglican churchmen that Tony Blair's intervention sets a "dangerous precedent" betrays a curious understanding of the Church's history and the related call for disestablishment suggests a simplistic approach to the Church's future.

The tradition which Mr Blair stands accused of breaching by his refusal to accept the Church's nominations is just 20 years old. The authority the Prime Minister exercises is of an altogether more durable kind. It is only since 1977 that vacant bishoprics have been filled by names put up by the Crown Appointments Commission. The commission, which consists of both archbishops, three lay and three ordained members of the Synod, and four representatives from the vacant diocese, usually recommends two names to the Prime Minister. He or she, in turn, places one name before the Sovereign for her approval. The Prime Minister has, however, always had the right to reject, or choose, whom he or she wishes and the right is no less legitimate for having languished. The State has not always acquiesced in the Church's allocation of crozier and mitres.

Although the Anglican Church is spiritually that of St Augustine it is also formally the creation of a King. The Church of England has been an Erastian body since the reign of Henry VIII and the State has consequently enjoyed ascendancy over the English Church in ecclesiastical matters since the Reformation. Even before the formal rupture with Rome, English Kings exercised the right to nominate bishops in what was, even then, accepted as the distinctive *ecclesia anglicana*. The 1534 Appointment of Bishops Act gave the Crown full power to choose who

should enjoy the episcopal palace and was in force until the creation of the Crown Appointments Commission in 1977.

Many will have honourable objections to the intrusion of temporal authority into matters spiritual. But it is hard to see how the Church was ill-served when an apparently more interventionist system elevated Lang, Ramsey and Temple to Augustine's see while the post-1977 regime brought Archbishop Runcie and Carey to Canterbury. Politicians have often proved a better guardian of Anglican tradition than priests. As recently as 1981, Parliament intervened to strengthen the entrenchment of the Book of Common Prayer in the worship and doctrine of the Anglican Church.

To object on principle to such interventions is to follow the path that led Newman to Rome, the Church of Scotland to Disruption and would lead the Church of England to disestablishment. Some Anglicans argue for that course and cast covetous eyes at Roman Catholic congregations. But too often they confuse the *via media* with the message. Rome's success lies in the certainty of its preaching — and disestablishment will not solve that by itself.

Disestablishment would be a far-reaching course for the nation. The Chief Rabbi has argued forcefully for establishment as a means of maintaining Britain's moral architecture. It is establishment which prevents Anglicanism from declining into a sect and allows the nation to find an accessible spiritual focus, as it did with the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. By insisting that the Church of England find a suitably charismatic successor for David Sheppard as Bishop of Liverpool Mr Blair is playing the same role for the Church as he has for the Crown. He is proving a candid friend to both institutions, prepared to overlook shallow traditions in order to strengthen the essential elements.

NOTES AT ISSUE

A single currency but several scenarios

Economics and politics have never been easy bedfellows. Their relationship is likely to become ever more tense as the date for the introduction of the single currency beckons. The prospective euro has long enjoyed a turbulent relationship with the financial markets. European Union finance ministers have embarked upon what they hope will prove a risk-minimisation strategy. They had initially planned to announce which nations would enter the first phase of EMU in the spring of next year but not declare the relevant exchange rates until the end of 1998. This has been reconsidered. Both the initial membership and their conversion rates will now be announced next May in tandem.

The reasoning behind all this is transparent. The slow but accelerating upturn in the state of the continental economies makes a "respectable" fudge of the Maastricht convergence criteria much more credible. If the original timetable had held, an orgy of uncertainty would have followed. The markets would have witnessed much speculation and exercised enormous influence over the final rates at which national currencies embraced the euro. Governments would have been tempted to devalue their currencies in order to acquire a permanent advantage under a fixed exchange rate.

The European Union now stands divided into three spheres. There are the northern nations whose economies are strong but who have substantial doubts about the euro. These include Britain, Denmark, Finland and Sweden. In all these cases, the political commitment to the cause is uncertain and approval in a referendum is essential. In contrast, there stands another set of southern countries. On a strict, or even slightly tough, interpretation of the Maastricht treaty, none of Greece, Italy, Portugal or Spain should be present at the creation of the single currency. If so, this will not be due to their lack of enthusiasm for it.

Finally, there is the central belt of states — Austria, France, Germany, Luxembourg, and The Netherlands — who (allowing for some manipulation of the figures for France) are able and willing to be founder-members of the enterprise. In almost any scenario, bar the total collapse of the concept, these countries will become the inner core of the currency. That leaves two difficult cases: Ireland, which is exceptionally keen but does most of its business with the northern tier nations who will stay out, and Belgium, which is desperate to be there from the outset but whose public debt exceeds the Maastricht requirements by some margin.

On a strictly rational basis the single currency would start life with five to seven members. At this point politics enters the picture. The southern strata will fight to avoid exclusion. Unless all the central nations can show that they have met the Maastricht requirements without manipulation (which may prove impossible), then they will find it difficult to keep out their neighbours. The final decision will be taken next May by qualified majority voting rather than relative economic merit. Germany may be forced to choose between a euro of up to 11 members or no single currency at all.

The EU finance ministers have reinforced the euro's schedule, indeed the calendar may be secured, but its fundamental character remains uncertain. The eventual impact of the single currency will depend rather more on its final nature than the launch date. The moment at which Britain must declare its hand has, in practical terms, been brought forward as a consequence. Continued prevarication on the basis that the project itself is insecure will no longer do. Tony Blair has shown some skill in defusing the European issue in British politics. Until now he has been spared the political agony that bedeviled his predecessor. The timebomb will soon resume ticking.

CHINESE CHIANTI

Half the world now sends for the Italian wine list

A little pasta, some olives, prosciutto and sun-dried tomatoes: the ingredients of the fastest-growing food fad in Britain are everywhere on display. Italian restaurants have been around for years, but the country's cuisine now enjoys a new cachet. Not only can the summer denizens of Tuscany bask in the glow of political fashion; on their return to Albion they can hold dinner parties all winter long to celebrate the food that nutritionists now proclaim the nearest to a perfectly balanced diet. And what could be more agreeable to accompany Italian cuisine than a fine bottle of Italian wine? No wonder sales have risen by as much as 10 per cent a year.

A beaker full of the warm south will not come cheaply next year, however: not only has Italy just announced the best harvest for half a century, but a remarkable adherence to European Union directives has led farmers to grub up hectare upon hectare of vineyards that used to pour their contents into Italy's unfathomable wine lake. Demand is sharply up, supply is down and quality has risen. The result is a hefty price rise. For those with a nose for Orvieto Classico or Nobile di Montepulciano, the joy in learning that every region of Italy is reporting the best vintage since 1947 must be tempered with dismay that what was cheap

and plentiful will be snapped up by wine merchants with a nose for the market.

No one, however, could have cornered a market in a more spectacular way than the Chinese. Warned by a fortuitous tasting of wine exhibited at a fair by the Brindisi farmers' co-operative, a Chinese province has bought up the region's entire supply for the next eight years. A few of the better-known wines appear to have escaped the shipment, but from now until 2005 Brindisi's *vino da tavola* will gush eastwards at the rate of 600 tankers a month. A supply of two million hectolitres may do wonders for Italian cuisine in Shandong, the province with the insatiable thirst for the wine from the heel of Italy.

China, which could drink the entire continent of Europe dry were it to acquire a taste for this elixir, may be the salvation for those countries now feeling the sharp wind of competition from the southern hemisphere. Italy has been quicker than some of its neighbours to realise that an ancient belief in the beauties of rustic production is no substitute nowadays for the exacting chemistry of fermentation. Italian wine-makers have bowed to the dictates of technology and are determined to provide wines that are as fresh, drinkable and sought-after as legend insists.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

After the Scottish vote, an examination of the fine detail

From Father P. Dizon

Sir, William Hague can't have it both ways. Having urged Scottish voters to reject devolution because it gave too many powers to a Scottish Parliament, he now urges Welsh voters to reject devolution because it is "a pale shadow of what has been offered in Scotland" (report, September 13).

There has never really been any cogent argument against devolution presented in either country, a fact which the paucity of Mr Hague's rhetoric eloquently betrays. A "yes" vote on Thursday will further strengthen the process of reform which our political life desperately needs, and bring the government of Wales closer to the people it is meant to serve.

Yours etc,
PHILIP DIXON,
Magdalene College, Cambridge.
September 14.

From Mr Jacques Arnold

Sir, The price that the English have willingly paid all these years for the valued participation of the Scots in the United Kingdom has been over-representation of Scotland by 24 per cent in Parliament, and overpayment of Scottish government spending by a similar 24 per cent at the expense of English taxpayers. Now that the Scots have decided additionally to have their own parliament, these excesses must be reduced to at least par.

The Government's proposal to wait for parliamentary representation to be adjusted until the next regular boundary commission in about the year 2010, coming into effect in a general election in about the year 2014, is disingenuous and self-seeking, given the overwhelming proportion of Labour MPs among Scotland's current representation.

The Scottish Boundary Commission must, as your leading article today suggests, be set to work now to report in time for the next general election, which itself is likely to be after the election of a Scottish parliament. Protests by the Government of due process are hollow: the boundary commissions are currently carrying out public inquiries into the Euro-constituency boundaries, despite Labour's announced intention of scrapping their conclusions in favour of an undefined proportional-representation system to be implemented in less than two years, in June 1999.

Similarly, the Scottish block grant must be reduced to par. In the short term, English MPs must ensure that the grant is not increased to accommodate the considerable cost of the Scot-

ish parliament. That cost must inevitably be at the expense of either Scottish spending on, say, health and education, or, through taxation, of the Scots themselves.

In the long term, it will be for the Scottish parliament to cope with the reduction of English largesse, through reduced services, efficiency savings and/or local increases in tax. Any attempt by the UK's Scottish Chancellor of the Exchequer to increase the block grant, or by the Scottish parliament to reduce Scottish taxation, would inevitably be at the expense of English taxpayers.

There is no surer way to inflame English nationalism — not a characteristic of a generous people whose taxation is currently subsidising Scots, Welshmen, Ulstermen and a wide variety of Europeans.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUES ARNOLD
(Chairman, Conservative Backbench Committee on Constitutional Affairs, 1996-97),
243 London Road,
West Malling, Kent.
September 13.

From Mr J. E. Gray

Sir, Why all the euphoria and hype over the vote in Scotland? Of those entitled to vote, 44.6 per cent were in favour of a Scottish parliament and 32.2 per cent in favour of tax-varying powers. Not even half prefer the change and little more than a third want to be taxed additionally.

It would be better if far-reaching changes like this required a two-thirds majority of all those entitled to vote. That would give the politicians some real work to do.

Yours etc,
J. E. GRAY,
29 Gallagher Road,
Bedworth, Warwickshire.
September 15.

From Mr Richard A. Edwards

Sir, You are quite right to highlight in your leader today the importance of Parliament's role in producing the framework for the Scottish parliament. Many of the proposed constitutional innovations will require careful attention.

For example, the new Scottish parliament will be elected for a fixed term of four years (White Paper, para 9.2). The parliament may be dissolved before the expiry of such a term if two thirds of its members so agree, or if they are unable to appoint a first minister (para 9.4). However, there is no proposal in the White Paper to

allow an early dissolution of the parliament if it passes a motion of no confidence in the Scottish government. Will the doctrine of responsible government not apply in Scotland?

The positive endorsement of the Scottish people on Thursday should not be used as an excuse for abusing the parliamentary process. The Government must observe the conventions governing constitutional Bills. But at the same time the Opposition must now recognise that it has no mandate to frustrate the passage of the Bill.

Yours etc,
RICHARD A. EDWARDS,
60 Queen's Road, Devizes, Wiltshire.
September 13.

From Mr Simon H. Cooke

Sir, Now that Scotland is going to have its own parliament, the Government should give an unequivocal assurance that not one penny of the cost of that institution (or of the taxes it raises) will be payable, directly or indirectly, by any resident of England, Wales or Northern Ireland. Otherwise it will be taxation without representation.

Yours truly,
SIMON H. COOKE,
Deers, Clavering, Essex.
September 12.

From Mr D. R. Houghton

Sir, Might it be that the Scottish vote will result in the recall to that country of all the lone pipers who, uninvited and intrusively, so often inflict their droning tones on assemblies of people in this country?

Yours faithfully,
D. R. HOUGHTON,
23 Millersdale Avenue,
Evington, Leicester.

From Professor N. M. Atherton

Sir, Am I to understand that people who live in Scotland are to enjoy disproportional over-representation?

Yours faithfully,
N. M. ATHERTON,
19 Tiptonville Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

From Mr George Heath

Sir, Help! I am being devolved by default.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HEATH,
17 Thackeray Avenue,
Clevedon, North Somerset.
September 14.

Catholic schools

From the Headmaster of Ampleforth College

Sir, As the headmaster of a Catholic independent school, a school not liable to be directly affected by certain measures proposed in the Government White Paper, *Excellence in Schools* (reports, July 8; letters, July 14, 18), I may qualify as sufficiently disinterested to comment on the bad faith which two of the proposals show to state-supported Catholic schools.

Catholics pay the same taxes as everyone else; yet they also provide for 15 per cent of capital expenditure of their schools — a large sum by any measure. In return, by virtue of a legal provision, the foundation governors of such voluntary-aided schools have had a secure majority on the governing bodies.

This arrangement is threatened. The issue at stake now is the religious character of the Catholic voluntary-aided and grant-maintained schools. This is no small matter: the Catholic maintained sector now includes 2,000 primary schools, 430 secondary schools and 17 sixth-form colleges.

The new aided schools will only have a bare majority of foundation governors; their right to set admissions criteria, central to the

character of the schools, is thus in question. The former grant-maintained schools will have only a small minority of foundation governors, and there is no commitment to full capital funding. For both types of school, the White Paper threatens the settlement in principle established by the 1944 Education Act and will undermine the security Catholic schools have had for half a century.

Catholic schools produce above-average academic results, and socially well-adjusted and well-behaved children. They are respected and sought after by parents. They are unlikely to be flattered by government recognition of their achievements if they are then forced to dilute their Catholic management and intake more than they choose to already.

Their character, their cohesion, their community, may suffer to a point where the benefits are not shared more widely, but lost. The Catholic community has always sought to co-operate with the Government of the day, but these measures are destructive.

Yours etc,
LEO CHAMBERLAIN,
Headmaster,
Ampleforth College,
York YO6 4ER.
September 14.

The heart of Elgar

From Mr Harvey Boulay

Sir, Richard Morrison's otherwise fine tribute to the late Sir Georg Solti ("Emperor who led a baton charge", Arts, September 8) contained one phrase to which I must take exception. This is his statement that Solti was "probably the first foreign-born conductor to grasp the wildfulness and nobility at the heart of Elgar".

Surely this honor belongs to Hans Richter, who championed Elgar's music (to the composer's great satisfaction) from the premiere of the *Enigma Variations* to the debut performance of the First Symphony, which Elgar wholeheartedly dedicated to Richter. It is almost certain that only Richter's ill-health, leading to his retirement, prevented him from premiering the Second Symphony, which Elgar conducted himself (to mixed reviews).

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY BOULAY,
1 Florence Street,
Boston, MA 02131.
boulay@rogerson.org
September 10.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Blair's block on choice of bishop

From Mr William E. Bridge

Sir, Your report today on the Prime Minister's intervention in the appointment of a new Bishop of Liverpool was apt and timely. Many of all shades of political opinion will be glad that he appears to be taking seriously his responsibilities in the appointment of bishops within the Church of England.

The Church badly needs bishops who have the vocation, drive and leadership to proclaim the Church's timeless teachings entrusted to it, particularly in the fields of morality, ministry and sacraments.

We have been betrayed by so much of the so-called liberal attitudes leading to division rather than unity: bishops commenting on others' morality rather than teaching the Commandments and ensuring that only those who uphold and subscribed to them had a place within the ministry of the Church.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM E. BRIDGE,
175 Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent.
September 15.

From the Reverend John Draper

Sir, I am not sure if I like "open government". Does Ruth Gledhill realise that her report on the appointment of bishops has divided the Anglican clergy into four camps this morning?

1. Those wondering who the arch-deacon and the friend of Dr Carey rejected by Tony Blair are;
2. Those thinking that they might receive a telephone call after all;
3. Those moping around because they have been passed over yet again;
4. Those who are doing some pastoral work.

I confess to falling within 50 per cent of these categories.

Yours pastorally,
JOHN DRAPER,
The Rectory, Rowner Lane,
Rowner, Gosport, Hampshire.
September 15.

Ask a silly question . . .

From Mr C. W. Koenigsberger

Sir, I believe the "silly question" at a job interview (letters, September 1 and 10) — ie a question designed to test immediate response to verbal surprise — was first asked many years ago by the controversial psychologist, Professor Cyril Burt.

As the candidate was opening the door, in order to leave the room where he had been interviewed at a big, horseshoe-shaped table, Burt asked: "What do you think of the shape of this table?" Without hesitation the candidate replied: "I hope it brings me luck."

He got the job.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. KOENIGSBERGER,
15 Straffan Lodge,
1 Belzite Grove, NW3.
September 10.

From Mr Edward Berry

Sir, At an interview in 1986 with a St James's wine merchant, I was asked whether I played golf. Debating whether to answer yes, on the assumption that it might be a prerequisite to the job, or no, on the grounds that I had never so much as held a golf club, I decided on the latter.

"Oh good," said the managing director. "We've got far too many golfers in the firm at the moment and we need someone to man the office whilst we're playing."

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BERRY,
Little Bay Court,
Boy Court Lane, Headcorn, Kent.

From Mr Christopher Murray

Sir, The opening question in an examination paper set by my brother-in-law in the early 1960s read: "Set the perfect exam paper."

He wrote: "Set the perfect exam paper," put down his pen and left the examination hall.

He failed.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MURRAY,
Kingsley Napley (solicitors),
Knights Quarter,
14 St John's Lane, ECI.
September 10.

From Mrs Mary V. Cottrill

Sir, I was pleased that the "race-horse", Andrew Baskerville, got the job (letter, September 10) and wonder whether the "stallion" I was partnered with at a French tuition weekend in Paris some years ago would have been so lucky.

I felt decidedly uncomfortable at the time and longed to be able to sit next to the "dormouse" opposite, or even the "teddybear"; a cuddly paediatrician a few chairs away.

Yours faithfully,
MARY V. COTTRILL,
Lynn Hall, Lynn, Cheshire.
September 11.

From Mr David Dean

Sir, At a job interview in 1976 I was asked if I had a sense of humour. I replied: "Well I'm here, aren't I?" I did not get the job.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DEAN,
18 Westbrook Road,
Swinton, Manchester.
September 10.

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1997

Wall Street regards investor's move as early warning of market crash

Buffett buys \$10bn of bonds

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK



Buffett: giving no clues

WARREN BUFFETT, one of America's best-known investors and wealthiest men, has bought bonds worth \$10 billion (£6.25 billion) in a move seen by Wall Street as an early warning of a stock market crash.

The investment guru, known as the Sage of Omaha, is believed to have sold part of his \$34 billion share portfolio to pay for the bonds. It emerged yesterday that Mr Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway fund has been buying risky zero-coupon bonds with a face value of \$10 billion at a cost of \$2 billion over a five-week period ending last week.

The traders said Mr Buffett's move could send shockwaves through the ranks of small investors who follow his pronouncements religiously.

While there is no confirmation of what stocks he may have sold, the size of the buying spree makes it inevitable that he will have dipped into his portfolio, they said.

Brad Golding, of DKB Financial Products, said: "The impact of Buffett's buying has been felt throughout the market. If my mother hears Buffett likes Coca Cola she will start buying the stocks."

Steve Leuthold, chairman of Leuthold/Weeden Research, a money management firm, said: "Is Warren Buffett doing some very significant selling? I think this might be the case."

The move into the bond market is a departure from Mr Buffett's traditional investment strategies. For decades he has advised followers to

buy shares in well-run companies and hold them for a long time.

The zero-coupon bonds he bought over the past month are fundamentally different investment vehicles. The US Treasury bonds offer no return before maturity in ten or 30 years. They are extremely volatile and are effectively a bet that interest rates will fall, sending up bond price.

To mask his latest activity, Berkshire Hathaway has been dealing through a number of

Wall Street firms. Any news of its activities has had a dramatic effect on the stock market recently. Last month investors misinterpreted a Berkshire announcement to the effect that it was selling out of Wells Fargo, the banking group. The ensuing rush to sell Wells Fargo shares produced a 127-point drop in the Dow Jones industrial average.

Mr Buffett was giving no clues yesterday about his investment strategy, or saying whether Berkshire Hathaway had sold any equities to fund the bond purchases.

Mr Buffett, 73, is a legend among small investors in America, thousands of whom flock to his home town of Omaha, Nebraska, every May to hear him speak. At this so-

called "Woodstock of Capitalism" the fund manager treats them to homilies such as: "Risk comes from not knowing what you are doing."

He also tells investors that "we don't like to sell and we expect the relationship to last a lifetime." Among the major stocks he has held for years are Gillette, Salomon Brothers and Coca Cola.

At the end of the Sixties Mr Buffett liquidated his first investment business because he did not think he could maintain his results in the prevailing stock market climate. Last year he even said that he thought Berkshire's shares were too high.

Commentary, page 27

BDB licences face delay in Brussels

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE European Commission is threatening to delay the award of the main digital terrestrial television (DTT) licences to British Digital Broadcasting, the joint venture between Carlton Communications and Granada.

BDB plans to launch 20 digital television channels out of 40 due to be launched in the second half of next year. DTT channels are broadcast from ordinary transmitters and are

received on conventional rooftop aerials but a digital black-box decoder is needed.

BDB won the franchise in June from Digital Television Network, a company set up by NTL, the US cable and broadcasting services group. Normally the Independent Television Commission, the regulatory body for commercial television, formally awards such licences, but it is clear this will be delayed.

Digital Television Network has formally complained to the European Commission about the structure of the BDB plan and the competition directorate, led by Karel van Miert, is investigating.

It is highly unlikely that the ITC will award the licences until formal clearance is received from Brussels. This in turn will increase pressure on the equipment manufacturers. They have started to warn that time is running out if receivers are to be in the shops in volume for the 1998 pre-Christmas market. So far specifications have not been delivered to manufacturers and no orders have been placed. It is difficult to see how BDB could place significant orders before the licences are awarded.

The main issue before Brussels is BDB's long-term programme supply deals with BSkyB, the satellite television venture. BSkyB, in which News International owners of The Times holds a 40 per cent stake, was originally a one-third shareholder in BDB. The ITC decided that BSkyB should be excluded as an equity shareholder on competition grounds, but insisted that BSkyB channels such as Sky Sports and Sky Movies should remain an integral part of the package.

It is also believed that the Commission is interested in the fact that the two largest ITV companies will have such a powerful position in DTT.



Paul Davidson, left, managing director, Jim Brown and John Pfeil, finance director

Papermen make £25m

BY ERIC REGULY

SIX senior managers of Newsquest will make about £25 million in less than two years from the £300 million flotation of the regional newspaper group.

Newsquest, formed early last year when Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the American leveraged buyout firm, backed the £210 million management buy-out of Reed International's regional newspapers, doubled in size within 12 months when it paid £298 million for Pearson's Westminster Press division.

Newsquest said it will expand through acquisitions after

its autumn flotation in an effort to become the leading regional newspaper group.

The flotation, announced yesterday, is expected to raise £200 million, valuing the group at £500 million. It will carry about £200 million of debt. SBC Warburg Dillon Read and Merrill Lynch, the underwriters, hope to complete the offering next month.

A performance-related "ratchet" mechanism will boost the holdings of the senior managers from about 1 per cent to about 5 per cent, valuing their post-flotation equity stake at £25 million.

Jim Brown, Newsquest's chairman, said there were plenty of buying opportunities in spite of the rapid consolidation of the industry. United News & Media is thought to be willing to sell its regional papers; titles include the Yorkshire Post and the Lancashire Evening Post. Newsquest has 173 titles, including the Northern Echo, Evening Argus and Berrow's Worcester Journal, the world's oldest paper in continuous publication.

Pound hits low after German rate rise hint

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound plunged to a new low yesterday after the Bundesbank hinted that it might raise its key interest rate to 5 per cent.

Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, said "the room to manoeuvre" interest rate policy is much narrower after the EU agreed on Sunday to set bilateral exchange rates for currencies entering a single currency next May.

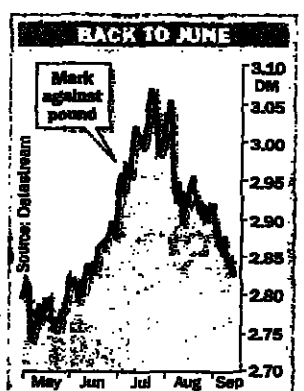
The pound fell almost three pence to a low of DM2.8168, before recovering slightly to close at DM2.8296. Sterling's trade weighted index also slipped 0.6 points to close at 99.5.

Economists interpreted Dr Tietmeyer's comments as evidence that the Bundesbank will push rates higher as a pre-emptive strike against inflation and to close the interest rate differential with other likely EMU members.

Gerhard Grebe, chief economist at Julius Baer, said: "National central banks will be end-of-line models after May. Anything they do could be viewed as an attempt to disrupt EMU and the Bundesbank will want to avoid that at all costs."

German interest rates have been steady for over a year, but the key "repo" rate is standing more than three and a half percentage points lower than the rate in Italy. Other European countries are likely to find it necessary to tweak rates to ensure a suitable convergence point next May, which economists predict will be around 4.5 per cent.

Spanish and Italian short-term bonds also rallied sharply yesterday, closing the gap with German bonds to record lows, as financial markets concluded the timetable for convergence trades has been shortened until next May.



Landhurst pair enter guilty pleas

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Landhurst Leasing trial came to an abrupt end at the Old Bailey yesterday, when the defendants changed their pleas to admit accepting thousands of pounds in kickbacks.

Ted Ball, 50, former chairman of Landhurst, and David Ashworth, 45, former joint managing director, took the money in return for advancing millions to the Brabham Formula One racing team. They were released on bail and will be sentenced on October 17.

Ball changed his plea on Friday, pleading guilty to eight counts of corruptly involving £420,000 in bribes, but reporting restrictions were imposed.

Ashworth yesterday pleaded guilty to receiving £120,000, jointly with Ball, as an inducement for advancing loans to Brabham.

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Chief resigns at Dalgety

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

RICHARD CLOTHIER has resigned as chief executive of Dalgety, the troubled food group, clearing the way for the sale of two divisions and a restructuring of the Felix and Winalot petfoods business that will lead to 700 job losses.

Mr Clothier, who left at the weekend after 20 years with the group, was paid £295,000 last year. Under his two-year contract, he is in line for a pay-off of up to £600,000 plus pension entitlements. Sir Denis Henderson, chairman, said negotiations on terms are under way.

Ken Hanna, finance director, replaces Mr Clothier. The group, which City firms have been eyeing for break-up value, said yesterday it would seek buyers of its food ingredients business, including milling, and its Martin-Brower US distribution business, which works solely for McDonalds. Sir Denis said it had not yet held any talks with possible buyers. Analysts expect ingredients to raise about £300 million and Martin-Brower to fetch up to £190 million. The proceeds will be used

to reduce the group's debts and return about £200 million to shareholders.

The group has charged £64 million for recapitalisation of petfoods, helping to push it from £99.6 million pre-tax profit to £71.6 million loss in the year to June 30. The final dividend, due on December 1, has been cut from 13.5p to 6p giving a full-year dividend down from 22.5p to 14.5p.

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Cable & Wireless integration costs hit £200m

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

CABLE & WIRELESS Communications, the UK's largest cable company, said it had cost £200 million to create an integrated company from its four constituent parts — Mercury Communications and three cable companies, Nynex, Videotron and Bell Cablemedia.

The one-off charge, which covers everything from staff costs and brand development to property write-downs, will be taken as a single exceptional charge in CWC's results for the six months to September 31. There will also be a

£504 million balance sheet adjustment to reflect debt refinancing and writing down the value of the existing analog cable network before the arrival of digital systems.

The charges appeared to hit the CWC share price, which fell from 255p to 242p. Graham Wallace, CWC chief executive, said yesterday that there would also be more than £100 million in savings this financial year, compared with the standalone plans of the separate companies, mainly through rationalising duplicated head office costs. He was speaking on the day CWC launched an integrated press, television and

poster campaign which will cost £50 million over the next six months alone and which yesterday involved purchasing all the colour advertising capacity of the national press for the day.

Mr Wallace made it clear that CWC intends to compete head-on with BT in telecommunication services and even target the telephone customers of other cable companies. In the past Mercury has tended to concentrate on the corporate market rather. "We are going back into the consumer market with a vengeance," said Mr Wallace.

Cuts in the cost of connecting Mercury local calls to the BT network, in areas where CWC does not have a cable franchise, have come down. The cable company said it planned to spend about £1 billion a year on its network until it is complete in 2001.

Pro forma accounts published yesterday showed total revenues up 13 per cent to £551 million in the three months to June, compared with £485 million for the same period in 1996. There was a pre-tax profit of £90 million.

Tempus, page 28

Electricity firms face customer desertions

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY customers could abandon monopoly suppliers in droves once the household market starts opening to competition next April. Fewer than a third of consumers are determined to stay with their present regional suppliers once those companies face competition, according to a survey by Coopers & Lybrand.

If consumers do what they say, then the industry would witness one of the biggest shake-ups in customer loyalty so far. The indications dwarf the expectations of those in the industry, including the regulator, who has forecast a transfer of only about 5 per cent in the first two years.

About 12 per cent of those questioned said that they

would definitely change suppliers when choice is offered through phased trial areas. Forty three per cent said they were open to the idea of changing supplier and 11 per cent said they probably would not change. Only 29 per cent said they would definitely stay with their regional companies.

Brand will be a big driver of consumer switching, with Tesco, Virgin, British Gas and PowerGen given strong backing in the survey. However, only British Gas has said it will definitely be in the market and doubt hangs over how many new entrants will challenge the regional companies. Margins in electricity supply are expected to be slight.

Customers said that they would be interested in companies that could offer good prices on a basket of household services such as gas, electricity and financial services. The regional electricity suppliers will have some customer advantage if they are able to offer good packages of services. Fifty per cent of those surveyed said they would choose a Rec if it could offer gas, electricity, water and financial services.

Murray MacFarlane, a partner with Coopers & Lybrand, said: "We are seeing a sea change in the attitude of consumers. It is a change that wouldn't have been anticipated five or ten years ago."

Domestic customers will save £1.3 billion on their electricity bills this year compared with 1990-91, the Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries says. The savings, driven by price controls and the erosion of the nuclear levy, mean a reduction of about £54 on an average bill.



Dick Searle, left, chief executive, and David Kendall, chairman, are confident

Blagden advances as sales dip

BLAGDEN INDUSTRIES, the paper and packaging group, raised pre-tax profits from £7.1 million to £8.3 million in the six months to June 30 on sales that fell from

£127.5 million to £114.7 million. Earnings per share rose from 6.7p to 7.7p, out of which the half-year dividend rises from 1p to 1.1p. The board is

confident about the second half in spite of the strong pound, which knocked £1.3 million off operating profits in the first half. The shares slipped 1½p to 160p.

Builders join forces to create new town

By CARL MORTSHED

ALFRED McALPINE is leading a £450 million project to build a new town near Cambridge, capable of housing a population of 8,000 at a 1,000-acre greenfield site.

McAlpine has signed up Bryant Homes and Bovis Homes, the P&O subsidiary, to help to build 3,300 homes, a health centre, schools and a library to service the town, to be situated seven miles west of Cambridge and called Cambourne.

The development is on the A438 Bedford to Cambridge road. The three companies are working closely on resolving details with South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The launch of site work at Cambourne later this year will come after the building of the first three houses at Hampton, an even larger new-town project near Peterborough, north of Cambridge.

Hampton, which is to be developed by Hanson, the building materials company, on former clay-pits, envisages 5,200 homes with a population of 13,000 people. Hanson expects that the capital value of the completed scheme could approach £1 billion.

Both housebuilders are confident that there is sufficient demand to accommodate the schemes, which were approved by Cambridgeshire District Council.

Oliver Whitehead, chief executive of McAlpine, said Cambridgeshire is one of the fastest-growing areas for housing demand in Britain.

The Cambourne project also includes a 50-acre business park and envisages a golf course, sports centre and country park. The final value of the project over its 12-year development period is estimated by the three companies at more than £450 million.

Bryant and Bovis are expected to share McAlpine's costs to date and all future costs.

Some 70 per cent of the land has been acquired with the balance under option.

Electronics firm prospers

CITY Technology Holdings, the electronic equipment group, raised pre-tax profits 24 per cent, to £7.7 million, in the year to June 30, on sales up 18 per cent to £18.9 million.

Earnings per share rose 25 per cent, to 10.68p, out of which a total dividend of 5.27p will be paid for the year, the first full 12 months since flotation.

John Finbow, chief executive, said: "The business has continued to generate significant profitable growth despite its reliance on export markets and despite the strength of sterling." The shares rose 11½p, to 185p.

Journals link up to take on TV

SEVEN of the world's most competitive business and international publications have combined to launch an advertising campaign extolling the virtues of print in a TV age (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Business Week, *The Economist*, *The European*, *Fortune*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Newsweek* and *Time* have got together in the World Press Group for an initial year-long campaign. It will be launched on Thursday using the slogan "In the global village we are the local press".

The aim is to fight back against such TV channels as CNN and BBC World. The campaign has been designed by Team Saatchi, the specialist multidisciplinary advertising team headed by Michael Parker. He believes it is the first time so many high-profile international publications have linked for such a generic campaign.

Modest gains at Travis Perkins

By CHRIS AYRES

MORE evidence emerged yesterday to suggest that Britain's economy is not overheating, as one of the biggest builder's merchants backed house-builders' claims that there is no property boom.

Travis Perkins, which has a market value of £520 million, yesterday reported an 8 per cent rise in turnover for the six months to June 30, from £250 million to £270 million, with pre-tax profits rising 31 per cent, from £17.2 million to £22.6 million. An interim dividend of 3.3p (3p) will be paid on November 3.

The increase in profits was achieved mainly through improved operating margins, which rose from 7.2 per cent to 8.2 per cent.

The company's statement came days after three of Britain's largest house-builders — Wilson (Connolly),

Bryant and Wilson Bowden — posted results showing that house prices are not rising as dramatically as predicted.

Tony Travis, chairman of Travis Perkins, said: "There is no housing boom outside central London. People have got a bit more money, but they are not going recklessly ahead in improving their houses like they did in the 1980s. There is still a lack of job security."

The industry might have expected to show a little more growth given the rise in housing transactions, and some commentators may have thought we should have been doing more. It's certainly not been very exciting. But there has been a slow and sustained improvement."

He added that Travis Perkins would continue to make small acquisitions. The shares rose 14½p to close at 513½p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

ABC blames sale on out-of-town cinemas

ABC CINEMAS yesterday blamed competition from large out-of-town cinemas for its decision to sell 20 of its sites, risking as many as 200 jobs. Barry Jenkins, chief executive of ABC, the second-largest British-owned cinema chain, said that the company hoped to find jobs for some of the 200 employees at its remaining 60 cinemas. The proceeds from the sales are to be used to invest in multiplex developments in town centres. ABC would not identify the cinemas that are to be closed and said it is likely that the new owners would find different uses for the sites.

The ABC cinemas were bought in a management buy-out two years ago from Richard Branson's Virgin Group. The owner of the MGM cinemas, Mr Jenkins said: "I believe that it is important for local planning authorities to adhere to the Government's guidelines in restricting out-of-town developments so that the vitality of town centres is preserved."

Morgan Crucible ahead

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, the industrial materials business with a market value of more than £1 billion, reported a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to July 4, from £48.3 million to £54.7 million. Profits were boosted by improved operating margins as turnover fell by 1.8 per cent from £459 million to £451 million. Earnings per share rose to 15.8p (14.1p) and an increased interim dividend of 7p (6.6p) will be paid on January 6.

Nestlé stake buyout

NESTLÉ, the food group, is to buy out a 49 per cent stake in the Dairy Farm joint venture for \$40 million (£25 million). Nestlé bought its original 51 per cent of the dairy products manufacturing business operations in Hong Kong and China in November 1992. The sale of the remaining 49 per cent, due to be completed on Friday, will produce an exceptional gain for Dairy Farm of \$24 million which will be taken into the company's 1997 full-year results.

Brunel in US disposal

BRUNEL HOLDINGS, the engineering group, is to sell Brunel America, including Mustang Manufacturing Company, its trading subsidiary, to Gehl for £17.2 million after expenses of about £250,000. Brunel said the proceeds will be used to reduce borrowings of the continuing group. Gehl is also taking on Brunel America's lease finance debt of \$1.5 million (£935,000). Mustang designs, develops, manufactures and distributes skid steer loaders and related attachments.

Westinghouse sells

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC confirmed that it has signed an agreement to sell Thermo King, its transport temperature control operations, to Ingersoll-Rand for \$2.56 billion (£1.6 billion) cash. Michael Jordan, the chairman and chief executive of Westinghouse, said: "The divestiture of Thermo King is another important step towards our goal of separation. Our goal has been to create the largest pure-play media company."

Sara Lee plans buyback

SARA LEE CORPORATION is to divest assets and cut costs to raise \$3 billion cash (£1.8 billion) over the next three years. Sara Lee plans to use the proceeds to accelerate the repurchase of its common stock. The programme will result in a charge of about \$1.6 billion in the year to June 1998. After-tax savings from the restructuring program and cost reduction efforts are estimated to be \$2.5-\$5.0 million in the same period.

Shire research review

SHIRE PHARMACEUTICALS is conducting a review of its research and development spending after its £113 million acquisition of Richwood Pharmaceuticals of the US. Rolf Stahel, chief executive, said the review would assess every drug being developed by the three constituent businesses. Shire dipped into the red with a pre-tax loss of £146,000, after a £2.6 million profit in the first half of last year. R&D spending rose by a third to £10.8 million.

Babcock unit to Amec

AMEC, the construction group, received £48 million of assets for only £1 yesterday when it bought the indebted process division of Babcock International, the engineering company. Babcock will pay a one-off charge of £18.6 million on the sale, including writing off assets, £1 million of goodwill and provisions for contract claims. The division, which had a turnover last year of £42.8 million, will be integrated into AMEC's process and energy business.

Healthcall declines

HEALTHCALL, the provider of support for GPs, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £2.9 million to £1.6 million in the six months to June 30, on sales down from £28.1 million to £27.4 million. Earnings fell from 3.29 to 1.92p, although the dividend is maintained at 1.65p a share. The group says it has successfully repositioned itself in its marketplace and yesterday announced the £2.4 million acquisition of Inter County Nursing and Care Services.

Capita in £4m deal

CAPITA, one of the UK's biggest outsourcing companies, is to buy a 60 per cent interest in the Tozer Gallagher partnership, a quantity surveyor and cost consultancy. The deal, worth nearly £4 million, will be funded partly through the issue of about 600,000 Capita shares at 2p each. Tozer Gallagher's clients include British Telecom, British Gas, Sears, and BP. George Kelbie, Tozer Gallagher's senior partner, will join the board of Capita's property services division.

Cadbury Schweppes dispenses with firm for £800,000

SodaStream loses its fizz

By JON ASHWORTH

SODASTREAM, maker of the home fizzy drinks system, has persuaded its management to "get busy with the fizzy" and buy the business from Cadbury Schweppes after 12 gaseous years.

Cadbury will not say how much it is getting for SodaStream, which it bought in 1985 for £22.5 million. But it admitted that the company's assets are worth about £793,000, suggesting an element of deflation. The management buyout is financed by Foreign & Colonial Ventures and led by Robert Handley, the SodaStream managing director, who has been with the company since 1983.

Teenagers who made themselves ill

drinking carbonated syrup by the bucket-load will remember SodaStream with mixed feelings. It was all the rage for a time, but things were never the same after the "great exploding bottle" saga.

SodaStream discovered in 1987 that bottles with its £30 Carnival drinks machine could explode when pumped with carbon dioxide. The fault was traced to heat and pressure weakness in the plastic bottles — attributed to wear and washing in hot water. SodaStream introduced stronger bottles, but the affair did nothing for sales, and cost the company an estimated £2 million.

Prospects are rosier abroad; particularly in Germany, where warmable milk bar kings delight in high velocity spurts of

gas. The system is also popular in "dry" countries such as Morocco, Algeria and Turkey. The market in the UK peaked in the mid-1980s, just when Cadbury piled in, and has been declining ever since.

David Kappler, group finance director of Cadbury Schweppes, said SodaStream was "A successful player in the niche home carbonates soft drinks sector." It no longer fitted with Cadbury's mainstream soft drinks franchising and bottling businesses.

SodaStream has a surprisingly long pedigree. Founded by Gilbey's Gin in 1903, it was owned, in the 1970s, by Kenwood, which distributed the machines through Thorn Domestic Appliances. Anglia Television later took a stake.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.33	2.18
Austria Sch	20.92	19.28
Belgium F	61.56	56.63
Canada \$	2.281	2.173
Cyprus Cyp	0.261	0.250
Denmark Kr	11.36	10.47
Finland Mk	8.90	8.24
France F	9.98	9.20
Germany Dm	2.89	2.75
Greece Dr	473	454
Hong Kong \$	13.27	12.07
Iceland	128	108
Ireland P	1.12	1.03
Israel	5.95	5.30
Italy Lira	2067	2700
Japan Yen	208.03	195.50
Netherlands Gld	0.650	0.601
New Zealand \$	3.378	3.088
Norway Kr	2.68	2.44
Portugal Esc	12.27	11.38
Spain Ptas	335.55	278.50
S Africa Rd	8.23	7.50
Switzerland F	250.76	225.00
Turkey Lira	12.04	11.84
USA \$	2.48	2.27
UK £	252.79	225.01
	1.712	1.589

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

NEWSQUEST

Stock Market Flotation

Newsquest, one of the UK's largest regional newspaper groups, specialising in the delivery of local information, is seeking a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

Newsquest publishes 173 titles, of which 61 are paid-for daily and weekly newspapers, and is the largest publisher of free newspapers in the UK.

To find out how to register your interest in the share offer, please contact one of the following share shops:

Barclays Share Shop
0800 400 401

Hargreaves Lansdown Stockbrokers
0800 850 663

NatWest Stockbrokers
0800 210 217

Sharelink
0121 236 2126

*As of 30 June 1997 and excluding the Wrexham operations, the proposed disposal of which has been announced.

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Putting more work Howard's way



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Howard Davies has much on his mind. This week the man charged with reshaping City regulation should make the key appointments to his team, and then he needs to find somewhere for his burgeoning new organisation to make its home. In between working out where the desks will be and who will sit at them, he must address the question of what role his NewRo should take in dealing with City fraud.

Although the Square Mile probably has no more than its fair share of morally challenged individuals, it has a poor record of bringing them to book. The combination of weak self-regulation and a Serious Fraud Office which has appeared at times to be something of a serious fraud itself has conspired to give the impression that the guilty are going gleefully free.

But it does not need to be so. Yesterday the SFO secured victory in a hugely complicated case involving the systematic defrauding of banks of many millions of pounds. The Landhurst Leasing saga could provide a novelist with the gist of a best-seller, its ingredients ranging from a Formula One racing team to cash-packed briefcases that changed hands at a motorway service station. There was even a cameo appearance by Terry Venables, football's lovable veteran of other legal battles.

This was a trial which could have lasted for months. Instead,

simplified charges, and the services of a razor sharp barrister, have brought speedy guilty pleas from the accused.

The result marks a triumph for SFO director, Rosalind Wright, so when she turned up in Cambridge yesterday to address a gathering of the world's experts on fraud — policemen rather than practitioners — she deserved, and received, full attention.

Ms Wright argued the case for giving NewRo a greater role in dealing with fraud. Although Mr Davies already has a huge task in amalgamating the regulators of the financial world into a single body, if it is to have beefed up powers to detect and punish fraudsters, then now is the time for them to be decided upon.

The current distinction between what is criminal, and a matter for the SFO, and what is merely against the rules, and therefore a matter for the regulatory authorities, is patently producing unsatisfactory results. Apart from the infamous instances such as the Guinness and Maxwell cases, where few would contend that the millions of pounds invested produced anything akin to justice, there are daily instances of fraud being allowed to escape unpunished

because of the system. The Stock Exchange is all too well aware that it is being impudently treated as the equivalent of a cash dispenser by a ring of international insider dealers, who appear to be based, appropriately, in Monaco. The sleuths at the Exchange pass on their information to the SFO and go home. The impotence is not self-inflicted but the result of a system which insists that insider trading is a criminal offence. Perhaps it would be sensible to give the Exchange more power to penalise insider traders, leaving Ms Wright to concentrate on securing more victories on the Landhurst scale.

of equities and put his money in bonds, then investors everywhere should take note. His success in the stock market has made him the second richest man in America, beaten only by Bill Gates. Although dubbed the Forrest Gump of finance for his homespun philosophising, his love of Cherry Cola and his fondness for driving an old Cadillac, he has earned his reputation for spotting the best chocolate in the box when it comes to stock picking.

He has always insisted that equity investing is for the long term and that he backs good management rather than gambles on the short term vagaries of the market. But if he had a premonition that the market really was going to crash, even Forrest Gump would have spotted the logic of getting out.

Both in the US and the UK, the major stocks have been looking perilously over-valued for many months. Perhaps Mr Buffett has

spotted that the turning point has arrived. But the question for investors now is just how far the market will fall. Pessimists will point out that the slump that hit the US in the 1920s saw the market fall by almost 90 per cent, to a nadir from which it took a quarter of a century to recover.

If the Sage of Omaha believes such horror, it might explain why he could be persuaded to back pedal on his complete commitment to long-term investment in sound companies.

Few are suggesting that the correction will be on that scale, but the over-heating in certain parts of the UK market must preface a cooling down. The fact is that just four major companies have been responsible for so much of the momentum in the Footsie this year.

Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Beecham, Lloyds TSB and HSBC are all sound companies with fine prospects, but they are not miracle workers. Yet they

have been pulling the market up by their bootstraps. Many smaller companies with perfectly good managements have not felt the warm wind which has seen these four leaders sail into the stratosphere. In the past Buffett has argued that you must follow good management. But if he is bailing out, the only sensible strategy is to follow.

Thorn trapped in legal prickles

If you say it quickly, one billion dollars does not sound all that much. But that is the potential liability lying in wait for Thorn because of the legal actions surrounding its US operation, Rent-A-Center, which is accused of consumer fraud.

Panic may not yet be the right reaction. British companies are becoming accustomed to the easy way in which US courts award vast penalties, and unjustified insults, as little more than a try-on, waiting for a higher court to modify the decision — if not overturn it completely.

But Thorn's legal battle in the US does underline the company's unfortunate history since gaining independence from

EMI. The expensively orchestrated split only served to crystallise the problems in the two groups.

Yesterday, Thorn shares fell nearly a tenth, to 151½p, marking the loss of value since the company was demerged almost equal to the potential liabilities from the US litigation.

Mike Metcalf and the Thorn management desperately need to get a grip on this company. They appear to have little idea of how to turn it around, giving the impression that the group is little less than what was left over after EMI had been served up to the market as a takeover target.

But the bidders have yet to emerge and unless Seagram or another contender comes to the shareholders' rescue, the net result of the Thorn-EMI demerger will be to burn a £2 billion hole in investors' pockets.

A taste sensation

A DELIGHTFUL example of corporate governance incorrectness from Forthum & Mason. The annual report points out that four of the six non-executive directors are members of Weston family, headed by ABF boss Garry. The family company owns the bulk of the shares in the upmarket store. But you can almost taste the gentleman's relish with which the statement is made.

Thorn could face \$1bn damages bill after US ruling

By DOMINIC WALSH

THORN, the embattled rentals group, faces a potential damages bill in the US of up to \$1 billion (£625 million) after a ruling by a New Jersey judge against the company's Rent-A-Center stores chain (Commentary, this page).

However, the company, whose chief executive is Mike Metcalf, estimates the total potential damages before legal costs from the New Jersey action at around \$120 million. Thorn believes it has strong grounds for an appeal. The next stage of the appeal process could take up to a year.

The New Jersey action, covering 22 stores, is one of several in which Thorn's Rent-A-Center chain is accused of charging an unfair rate of interest in its rental purchase agreements with customers. In May, for example, Thorn set aside £17.1 million to cover the potential cost of damages after losing a case in Minnesota.

The New Jersey suit alleges that the company, which "rents to own" household furnishings and appliances, charged its mostly low-income customers exorbitant rates of interest, calculated as 40 per

cent higher than permitted levels. It also accuses Thorn of consumer fraud, alleging that it concealed the true cost of its terms.

Thorn, whose share price dropped from 160p to 151½p on yesterday's news, poured scorn on the figures mentioned by analysts and said it is "confident that the New Jersey Superior Court's ruling will not prevail".

It also claimed that the New Jersey ruling had no application beyond the state, pointing out that in states covering 90 per cent of Thorn customers there was a distinction in law between rental-purchase agreements and consumer credit sales, thus removing its rental contracts from the scope of legal limits.

But analysts pointed out that, even in the three states where similar cases are outstanding — Texas, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania — there were almost 200 stores. On the same basis as the New Jersey ruling that would equate to up to \$1 billion.

A spokesman for Thorn said: "I would say that this is a crude extrapolation in the extreme. There is no precedent of one state following another on the scale of damages."

He added that in Pennsylvania Thorn had come very close to agreeing an out-of-court settlement about 15 months ago at a level of about \$5 million.



Appeal hopes: Mike Metcalf, Thorn's chief executive

ECC profit lifts shares 30p

By CARL MORTISHED

SHARES in English China Clays rose 30p, to 263p, yesterday after half-year profits to June 30 improved from £30 million to £48.6 million. Pre-tax profit rose from £57 million to £41.6 million. Last year the minerals group reported a £43 million loss.

Dennis Rediker, chief executive, said: "Most of the profit improvement was from a set of cost-reduction initiatives we set in train late last year." The

market had provided little help for the company, whose main outlet is minerals and chemicals for the paper industry. Volumes of European sourced minerals were up 5 per cent while American and Pacific volumes rose only 3 per cent. However, pricing of kaolin was still under pressure, he added.

Last March, the company announced a £10 million restructuring charge and an £85

million writedown of its assets, chiefly the Middle Georgia kaolin reserves. Margins in Europe improved sharply to 16 per cent from 11 per cent, while the return on sales from speciality chemicals rose to almost 10 per cent from 1 per cent but margins in the Americas rose by less than 1 per cent to 8.6 per cent. The interim dividend stays at 5.5p.

Tempus, page 28

European Leisure enjoys 30% leap in profit

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE gradual return of European Leisure, the snooker and discotheque group, to financial health continued yesterday as it reported a 30 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £7 million for the year to June 30.

The company, which in March declared its first dividend for six years, is to pay a final dividend to shareholders of 3p on January 5, making 4p for the year. Earnings per share rose 4.4 per cent, from 18.4p to 19.2p.

Ian Rock, chief executive, described the 12 months to June 30 as "a year of positive progress" for the group, which built up huge debts in the recession and saw two former directors, including Michael Ward, the ex-chairman and chief executive, jailed for fraud.

Mr Rock said that Rileys, the snooker club and pool bars division that raised profits 15 per cent to £3 million, were planned to buy a further ten clubs in the current year at an estimated cost of £3 million.

This would take the total to 81. Seven sites are already under negotiation.

Maygay, the amusement machine business, reported profits up 70 per cent to £4.1 million on turnover 47 per cent ahead to £29.2 million.

However, bars and discotheques saw profits fall from £5.5 million to £4.4 million as several units suffered from new competitors in locations such as Leeds, Cardiff and Portsmouth.

The division's management has been restructured and some sites may be transferred to the Rileys American Pool Bar format.

The effect of October's £11.4 million rights issue and new bank facilities reduced European Leisure's borrowings from £53.4 million to £39.1 million, equivalent to a cut in gearing from 85 per cent to 49.5 per cent.

Mr Rock said that current trading was ahead of last year. The shares rose 10½p to close at 142p. The shares reached a high of 195½p in March this year.

Two share £8.1m fee from Cordiant sale

By JASON NISSE

TWO directors of a subsidiary of Cordiant, the advertising group that is about to reveal details of its demerger, are to share a \$13 million (£8.1 million) sellers' fee from the disposal of the business.

Joseph Farrell and Catherine Paura negotiated the "sellers' fee" in the agreement with Lord Saatchi, who was running Cordiant when it purchased the National Research Group, the film information business that they run, in 1991.

Cordiant sold the operation to VNU, the Dutch publisher, yesterday saying the niche business was "not core to the strategy of the two groups to be formed on demerger".

VNU is paying \$52 million, but only \$39 million of this will go to Cordiant. Even so, Cordiant will take a \$27 million profit from the sale.



Lord Saatchi: agreed fee

NRG is based in Los Angeles and London and provides information to film-makers, TV companies and theme park operators about probable audience reactions to new products. Last year the turnover was \$44 million and operating profits \$3.3 million.

Cordiant has said the circular to shareholders detailing the demerger will be published by the end of this month. But City analysts are questioning whether the advertising group and its advisers, SBC Warburg, will be able to meet the deadline.

The group will be split into two quoted advertising companies — Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates — and its media-buying operation, Zenith, will be owned 50/50 by the two quoted groups. Cordiant is understood to be looking for a buyer for Zenith, but potential purchasers have been concerned about agreements between Zenith and the group's two advertising agencies that appear to bolster Zenith's profits.

Cordiant shares were unchanged at 119½p on the deal.

Tempus, page 28

Dividend lifted by 9% at L&M

SHARES in London & Manchester rose 14p to 421½p after the life assurance and financial services group announced it was increasing its interim dividend 9 per cent to 7.2p per share (Marianne Curphey writes).

The group has just completed 18 months restructuring of its core home services division, where new industrial branch business for the six months to June rose more than 90 per cent.

Analysts were encouraged by the news that the group's estate agency network continued to benefit from the buoyant housing market.

For the group as a whole, premium income was flat, at £153.5 million, down from £154 million the previous year.

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Book your ticket for an Economy return (no upgrade available with this offer) by calling British Midland or contacting Thomas Cook. Details will be provided when you send in your tokens and application form. These must be received by Friday, October 10, 1997. Allow 28 days for delivery. Bookings cannot be made before November 10 or after January 9, 1998. Bookings must be made at least 14 days before you want to travel. All travel must originate in the UK. Travel to mainland Europe is via Heathrow or East Midlands. This offer is open to UK residents only. The offer is subject to availability.

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Birmingham	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Bristol	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Cardiff	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Cologne	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Dublin	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Edinburgh	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Glasgow	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Heathrow	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Leeds/Bradford	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Manchester	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Nottingham	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Oxford	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Paris	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
Teesside	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000
York	£50	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500	£600	£700	£800	£900	£1000

*You can receive a copy of the full terms and conditions by sending a stamped sae to: British Midland Terms and Conditions, Customer Services Department, PO Box 481, Pennington Street, London E1 9XP.

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 10 July 1997 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 16 September 1997.

Gross Distribution per unit	2.100 Cents
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	1.785 Cents
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Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY, National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 16 September, 1997

Shares climb after Laporte shake-up

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Laporte jumped 30p to 706½p as the chemicals company reported that its half-year results showed a 21 per cent improvement in the underlying profitability of continuing business.

Laporte has just completed a radical shake-up, which has involved shedding about 2,500 staff and cutting the number of its operating sites by 40 per cent. One-off charges from the restructuring, mainly stemming from previously written off goodwill, meant the company made a pre-tax profit of £30.7 million (£36.4 million).

Ignoring exceptional items and adjusting for currency fluctuations, Laporte said that its continuing businesses

made £60.4 million in the six months to June 30, up from £54.2 million in the corresponding period last year.

The group also received a £5.7 million contribution from businesses it has since sold, led by its adhesives and sealants business.

Jim Leng, chief executive, said the key was to draw a line under the restructuring. The £83 million received last month for its remaining US adhesives business gives Laporte more than £100 million to back its acquisition plans.

Laporte is paying an interim dividend of 9p a share, a 6 per cent increase. It will be paid as a foreign income dividend on November 12.

Moral hazards of saving sick economies

The annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank always promise so much and yet yield apparently so little. Speeches burst with intention, but progress is rarely more than incremental, and often less. The Bretton Woods Institutions, set up with the worst of intentions at the end of the Second World War as policemen of the world's financial system and midwife of economic development, often look like cumbersome anachronisms in a global economy dominated by the whims of private capital.

And yet politicians and finance ministers the world over still look to the IMF in particular for answers to the crisis that the world of free capital throws up at alarmingly irregular intervals. The recent (continuing) turmoil in East Asian currency and stock markets provides the most de-

manding of backdrops to the fund's annual gathering and focuses attention on what part, exactly, the IMF is expected to play. The IMF's role in the current crisis has been to piece together a stabilisation package for Thailand that includes the tough conditions for economic good behaviour and reform now long associated with the fund's approach to these matters. Two years ago, the IMF husbanded a similar rescue package for Mexico that saw a catastrophic collapse in the peso as private investors woke up to the risks in the small print of glossy emerging-market brochures.

On both occasions, the IMF insists that it properly played its

role as an early warning system, urging the respective governments to change their economic policies. There was, at the time, some scepticism in the case of Mexico, but it is clear that the fund had long been badgering Bangkok. But as officials have insisted repeatedly in recent weeks, you can tell a government to go to the corrective waterhole but you cannot make it drink.

Much retrospective ringing of hands will go on in Hong Kong as the course of recent events is picked over to identify lessons for the future. But some fundamental questions ought to be asked — the most important being should the fund be in the business of bailing out governments that have mis-

managed their economies. Surely, there is a huge element of moral hazard here? Central bankers have always talked about the IMF coming to the rescue when an isolated case of confidence spreads throughout its geographical region and be-

yond and threatens systemic risk to the world financial system. And yet did either Mexico or Thailand pose systemic risk? In the case of Mexico, the contagion did take hold in many parts of Latin America, but less so for those countries with stronger economic fundamentals. And in the end, a massive drop in the peso carried the seeds of Mexico's eventual recovery. The same is likely to be true of East Asia. Thailand has been well and truly punished by the markets for its profligacy. Singapore and Hong Kong less so because they are much more sound and better-managed economies.

The counter-argument, of course, is that, without the fund

standing ready with cash for these countries in crisis, the loss of confidence would have spread far more dangerously. But, even then, is the fund the right firefighter? In the cases of Mexico and Thailand, it was the dominant economy in the region that argued for a rescue package and then put up most of the money. In Mexico's case, the Group of Seven governments — apart from the US — were not interested in compensating their own deficit reduction efforts to bail out a country that had simply broken the international economic rules. But, fresh from the public relations triumph of setting up the NAFTA free trade area with Mexico and Canada, President Clinton

forced Congress to come up with the money. More recently, it was Japan that put up most of the money for Thailand while insisting on an IMF framework. Surely the rational response to financial contagion is for those that are most likely to fall sick by association to pay for their own immunisation. This is an argument vehemently opposed in Europe, presumably mindful of the vulnerability of its own economic backyard to the East. Russia and much of the rest of the old communist block are just as subject as Latin America is (and more so than East Asia) to the sudden pullout of faddish investment money when things start to go awry. How much better, then, for Europe to burden-share through the IMF, but the quid pro quo is having to pay up for financial earthquakes far from home.

Dalgety shows what to do with ingredients of a dog's dinner

Jon Ashworth and Sarah Cunningham track the company's tribulations

Three glorious years ago, Dalgety was all about Golden Wonder crisps and pot noodles. Spillers petfood, and Homepride sauces and flour. Today, the crisps, noodles and sauces have gone and are soon to be followed by the flour. Luckless investors have been left picking through the husks. The past year has brought two profits warnings, resignations, and a share price that has underperformed the market by about 40 per cent. Felix and Arthur are fast running out of lives.

Were it not for tinned catfood — with Felix in particular a consistent good seller — things would be even worse for Dalgety. In a fresh effort to reinvent itself, the group yesterday announced a raft of changes, including the sale of its US distribution arm and its ingredients and milling business — and the return of £200 million to shareholders.

Richard Clothier, the chief executive, has finally been prized out, handing on to Ken Hanna, who joined as finance director in March, fresh from United Distillers, the spirits group. The new Dalgety is still, Hanna admits, an unlikely mixture of petfood, agriculture and pig breeding. Despite the promise of returning cash to shareholders, the shares tumbled up only 4p yesterday, to 274½p — hardly a vote of confidence. Things looked altogether more favourable in the autumn of 1994. Then, an upbeat Clothier was in the thick of a disposals spree, intent on focusing Dalgety on core businesses such as petfood and agriculture.

His efforts were aimed at undoing the horrors of the 1980s, which saw Dalgety wallowing in a mass of ill-conceived diversifications. From its 19th century roots in Australian agriculture, the company had grown to embrace a hodgepodge of businesses, from frozen food on the US West coast and timber in Canada, to pig breeding and cocoa trading in Europe. City ways had a fun time, dubbing the company



Felix has been a consistent good seller for Dalgety, but even its future as part of the company's portfolio is in doubt

Dalgety. Others preferred Dull and Grotty. The task of reforming Dalgety was initiated in the late-1980s by Maurice Warren, then chief executive and later chairman, who passed the baton to Clothier when the latter became chief executive in 1993. He got off to a good start, and the shares, at 407p in January 1995, were described as "undervalued" by some over-enthusiastic analysts.

A key event came in February 1995, when Dalgety announced the £442 million purchase of Quaker Oats' European petfood business. To help fund the deal, the company launched a one-for-four rights issue at 335p a share to raise £168 million, and put Golden Wonder and Homepride up for sale. The City hailed the Quaker deal as Dalgety's most strategically crucial acquisition in 15 years. It largely completed the company's transformation from a disparate group of agricultural and resources businesses to one focused on animal feeds and pig breeding, food ingredients, and petfoods. The deal lifted Dalgety's share of the European petfood market from 8 per cent to 21 per cent, bringing Felix and Fido into the family, alongside Arthur catfood and Winalot dog food, and turning up the heat on Mars, which commanded the field with Whiskas and Pedigree Chum.

Quips about "bringing home the bacon" followed soon afterwards, as Dalgety paid £17 mil-

lion for National Pig Development Company, a pig breeder famous for its lean boars. There was a clear strategic fit in every sense — with Dalgety's Pig Improvement Company, famed for its fabled sows. Getting rid of Golden Wonder — then led by Jack Rowell, who is now better known as former manager of the England rugby side — took longer than expected, but Dalgety

finally offloaded the pot noodle side of things to CPC International, the American company behind Marmite and Bovril. Homepride cooking sauces went to Campbell Soup. The cracks in the strategy began to appear in September 1995, when Dalgety disclosed that the cost of integrating Quaker petfoods had spiralled by about 30 per cent. The cost of provisions associated with the acquisition had increased from £45 million to £60 million.

The crisis side of Golden Wonder was sold to management for £54.6 million in October 1995, in a deal backed by Legal & General Ventures. The disposals came close to raising the £300 million required to offset the Quaker deal. Further financial cracks began to appear, with talk of "problems" in the petfood and milling businesses. Job cuts were rife. In January 1996, staff at a petfood factory in France took two managers hostage, in protest at plans to close the site. Pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of December 1995 fell to £47 million (£61 million), at the bottom end of analysts' forecasts.

Then came bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), otherwise known as "mad cow" disease. Fears that eating beef could lead to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans took its toll of dairy and animal feed companies, with Dalgety among the main losers. In March 1996, the European Union banned exports of British beef, prompting Dalgety to issue a BSE-related profits warning. The scare cost it £25 million. One can only imagine the consternation when in The Netherlands 330 cats died and dozens more became sick after tucking into Spillers petfood. It transpired that the food had been accidentally contaminated by an antibiotic, and was not a manifestation of "mad cat"

clothing put on a brave face. "There are no sacred cows," he said. "We must have a thorough look at the options that we have to improve shareholder value." Now he too has gone, leaving Felix and Arthur dangling by their claws. According to Sir Denys, Clothier left the company a disappointed man. Although he will have his payoff, probably of £600,000 plus pension rights, to comfort him, he will not be able to see the company through its most crucial phase. And although Hanna still has great hopes for turning the company round, what comes next for Dalgety is largely out of his hands. It will be up to other companies to bid for the divisions put up for sale and then, possibly, for what is left of the group.

The ingredients and US distribution arms were selected for sale because they will be the easiest to unload. The pigs business, whose success is largely credited to Clothier, is described by Sir Denys — rather improbably — as Dalgety's "hidden jewel". The agriculture business will remain difficult, and petfoods — Dalgety's core — is attractive for its size and some of its brands, if not for its profitability. Even though it will still be a rather unwieldy clutch of businesses, the feeling is that a much smaller Dalgety could attract a number of possible buyers willing to pay a reasonable premium. This would not only please shareholders, but would also end, once and for all, the temptation to call it a dog's dinner of a group.



Richard Clothier said: "There are no sacred cows"

Sharing pain

SIR DENYS HENDERSON'S choice of chairmanships since he broke loose from ICI has been mixed. Rank Group has not been a pleasant experience; come back Michael Gifford, all is forgiven. But shareholders at Dalgety, where he took over as chairman at the start of the year, will be happy to know that he shares some of their pain — even if it is too early to blame it on him. Before he became chairman he bought shares at 335p. Since then he has bought more at 316p and then at

270p. The shares are now worth 274½p. But it is the figure of 335p which is "imprinted on my mind," he says. Not only on yours, Sir Denys.

● BARCLAYS BANK has launched a series of advertisements about the euro and the need for business to keep up. The ads feature dogs at the racetrack, with the British bulldog trailing the rest. A call to the bank, asking if Barclays wanted to book the ads into one journal, seems to have got the wrong end of the stick. It came from the Racing Post.

Crossed lines

A MOST peculiar row has blown up over the £50 million campaign launched yesterday to persuade us all that Cable & Wireless should be called Cable & Wireless Communications — I think I have got that right. Something called Swiftcall is claiming "bully boy" tactics have swept its own ads off the printed page. These claims are somewhat weakened by the appearance on page 16 of *The Times* yesterday of a black and white ad for, well, Swiftcall. But I persevere. C&W is having a bad telephone day, but at last I got through. The distinctive yellow ads were booked four months ago in complete secrecy,



and covered all the colour space in the national press. "Nobody else can have any colour advertising — it doesn't matter if they are a telecoms company or Bird's Eye." Swiftcall singles out the normally blameless *Evening Standard* for having bounced its ads in favour of C&W's. Zoe Bartlett at the paper's display ad department refuses to confirm or deny this, for reasons of commercial confidentiality. A colleague is less guarded. "That's what happened. We weren't allowed to carry any other telecoms advertising. It was part of the deal that was set up."

● UNLUCKIEST traveller on British Airways has to be Brett Ainsworth, whose regular journeys to the Far

East take him from Manchester to Heathrow Terminal 1, with a long wait at Terminal 3. BA has lost his luggage on five consecutive flights, and has just had to offer him a free ticket. "Heathrow is like a black hole or the Bermuda Triangle — things disappear," says Ainsworth.

Food for thought

I MAY be spoiling the surprise, but I hear one of the City's best-known analysts will be celebrating 20 years in the job at a special lunch later this year. This is how long food analyst David Lang has been publishing his monthly *Consumer Brief* for Henderson Crosthwaite. The bash is planned for colleagues and various captains of the food industry. Lang's loyalty must have been stretched by unimpressive offers from bigger and richer brokers, which says something in these days of multimillion hirings. My favourite Lang story concerns the time he bumped into a well-known food retailer and they swapped job titles. He was rewarded with a lecture about the lack of additives in the food on said retailer's shelves. After a while the speech on E numbers and the like seemed to go beyond the purely conversational and enter the realms of the obsessive. At last the retailer wandered off. A bemused Lang finally realised he had been taken for a food analyst — that is, one who carries out detailed chemical analysis of the stuff.

Candle vigil

I HAVE no idea whether he is any good, or if he has anything to do with that "artist" who likes to cover monuments in plastic. But go along to the sanctuary at St Giles in the Barbican on Saturday night and you can find out. The Corporation of London is sponsoring an arts festival and bringing in the Bulgarian artist Dobri Dobrev. He specialises in fire drawings and will be creating an image of an angel out of 3,000-plus candles. Passers-by will help to light them all.

MARTIN WALLER



"Thank you for your interest, but the position has been filled"

Why the City is a great place to work but not such a great place to live

From Mr Trevor Wheeler

Sir, The City editor was quite correct when she identified the Corporation of London's main functions as that of planning, policing and public relations (Commentary, September 3). City planning in the Square Mile, however, is no trivial pursuit — it generates considerable revenues for the Corporation.

The Government's Green Paper called for a review of the franchise of the Square Mile so it more accurately represented the interests of its various occupants, business and residential.

As someone who lives and works in the City I can assure the City editor that business residents do not need further representation. Everyone in the Square Mile knows that money does not talk, it shouts.

The corporation's plan to give firms votes tied to the rateable value of their properties is a typically cynical manoeuvre to secure and en-

hance that rateable value and pitch private residents even further down the line.

The corporation's assurances, however, that creating a new class of business voter will not reduce the power of private residents does have a ring of truth about it — quite simply because it could not get any lower. The City planning department's decisions, where the interests of private and business residents are in conflict, testify to this fact. The corporation has even shown itself willing to ignore its own planning policies, specifically designed to protect residents, in order to acquiesce to the demands of business — and rateable value.

The Square Mile is a great place to work. Regrettably, due to the priorities of the Corporation of London, it is not such a great place to live. Yours faithfully, TREVOR WHEELER, 310 Seddon House, Barbican, EC2.

Critique of corporate charity was distorted

From the Chairman,

Cadbury Schweppes Sir, Your article of September 3 ("Big companies change tack to make money from the cost of giving") gave a distorted view of UK corporate charitable activity in general and ours in particular.

You fail to point out that in our case the figure you quote is for UK donations only, which you compare as a percentage of global profits, but like other international companies we are making donations in another 40 countries where we have significant operations. Quite rightly, companies know that the most effective

way to help charities is often not with cash, but with the time and expertise of their people and other facilities. For Cadbury Schweppes, cash accounts for only 30 per cent of our charitable support.

Cause related marketing, for which my company in conjunction with Business in the Community is providing leadership, is not being developed as an alternative form of charitable contribution but as an innovation to leverage corporate marketing expenditure for the benefit of charities. Yours faithfully, SIR DOMINIC CADBURY, Chairman, Cadbury Schweppes plc, 25 Berkeley Square, W1.

Letters to the Business section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

WHOEVER SAID GENIUS WAS ITS OWN REWARD NEEDED A GOOD LAWYER

patent n. Brit. 1 person commonly found in hospital (sic) or infirmary (sic) 2 extremely obvious 3 a right or title esp. to make, use or sell some invention.

trade mark n. 1 small expensive symbol knitted onto polo shirts etc (often foll. by *Far East copies*) 2 a device, word or words established to represent a company, product etc.

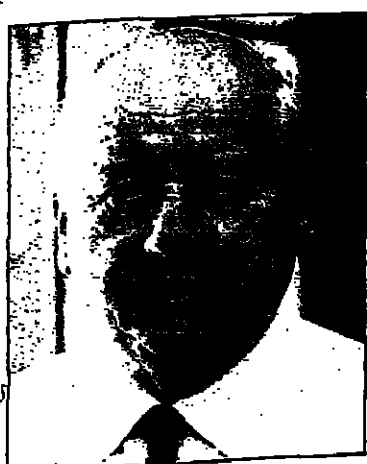
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The price of 335p is imprinted on Sir Denys Henderson's mind

Equities rally in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
400	397	AB InBev	400	+3	+0.8	14.1
104	103	Carlsberg	104	+1	+1.0	11.2
104	103	Carlsberg A	104	+1	+1.0	11.2
104	103	Carlsberg B	104	+1	+1.0	11.2
104	103	Carlsberg C	104	+1	+1.0	11.2
104	103	Carlsberg D	104	+1	+1.0	11.2
104	103	Carlsberg E	104	+1	+1.0	11.2
104	103	Carlsberg F	104	+1	+1.0	11.2
104	103	Carlsberg G	104	+1	+1.0	11.2
104	103	Carlsberg H	104	+1	+1.0	11.2

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
62	61	Beck's	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's A	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's B	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's C	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's D	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's E	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's F	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's G	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's H	62	+1	+1.6	10.0
62	61	Beck's I	62	+1	+1.6	10.0

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
151	150	ABN-AMRO	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
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151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
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151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO G	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO H	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO I	151	+1	+0.7	10.0

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High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
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151	150	ABN-AMRO A	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO B	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO C	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO D	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO E	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
151	150	ABN-AMRO F	151	+1	+0.7	10.0
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Fewer firms object to law on pay rate

By Rodney Hobson

OPPOSITION to government proposals for a law setting a minimum wage is weakening, according to independent research carried out among 1,000 small firms on behalf of NatWest Bank.

Most small businesses would support a minimum wage of £3 an hour, and the number opposing £4 an hour has slipped to 50 per cent, seven percentage points less than the figure that was recorded when NatWest Bank last carried out a survey on the issue three years ago.

The latest study, which was carried out by the Small Business Research Trust, a unit of the Open University, shows that approximately one firm in three is actually in favour of a £4-an-hour minimum wage.

Peter Ibbotson, the head of small business services for NatWest, says: "It does not come as a shock to learn that three quarters of small firms that currently employ staff at less than £4 an hour oppose a minimum wage at this level. Only one in five small

firms is opposed to a minimum wage of £3.

Only 9 per cent of firms surveyed employed anyone at less than £3 an hour. However, of the 10,000 employees covered in the survey, 21 per cent earned less than £4 an hour. Almost two thirds were women and nearly half were part-time workers.

About a fifth of small businesses claimed that they would employ fewer people if a £4 minimum wage were introduced. Some firms that did not pay anyone less than £4 said that they would lay off staff because a minimum wage would force them to raise pay for higher-paid workers in order to maintain differentials.

The research also revealed a continuing lack of confidence among small businesses. Fewer than half reported higher turnover in the second quarter, compared with a year ago, and a majority expected poorer sales during the third quarter.

Fewer than a quarter had increased their investment.

BRIEFINGS

The 11th edition of the *Lloyd's Bank Small Business Guide*, by Sara Williams, widely regarded as the best guide to setting up and running a business, will be published by Penguin on September 25, priced at £12. The new edition assesses the implications of a

Labour Government and incorporates tax changes made by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the summer Budget.

A warning to franchisees that they may be breaching the Data Protection Act 1984 has been issued by Elizabeth France, Data Protection Registrar. She says that any organisation processing personal information on computer is obliged to register. Guidance notes are free from the publications office at Wyndley House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

A guide to selling a business has been issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. It is aimed at entrepreneurs and family firms and has been written by Howard Leigh, of Cavendish Corporate Finance. Copies are £5 from Peter Mayatt, PO Box 433, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2.



"That's the worst thing about being your own boss — having no one to sack as a scapegoat"

Jessica Gorst-Williams looks at furniture-makers large and small



Edward Brett, left, head of Arthur Brett, a furniture-making firm in which craftsmen produce pieces for big-name clients — and which knows about surviving recession



Family beats economic chill with style

EDWARD BRETT, the 58-year-old head of Arthur Brett, a furniture manufacturer based in Norwich, says that "furniture-making is a bug and once it is in the blood you cannot get it out of the system".

Mr Brett is the fifth generation of his family involved in making fine traditional English furniture. It all started with John Brett, a chairmaker, who was born in 1815. His son, Jonathan, established the family business that is now world renowned, particularly for pieces in the styles of Sheraton, Chippendale and Hepplewhite. Turnover is around £3.5 million and the firm employs 55 people.

The cornerstone of the business remains individual craftsmanship. To ensure that skills are passed down the generations, Arthur Brett has its own unique four-year apprenticeship.

However, machines play a part in cutting down drudgery, speeding up the work and saving on mess. These range from the main lathe, which has been in use since 1961, to a state-of-the-art £80,000 CNC router with sharp overhead

cutters operated by a computer program, which assists shaping and profiling work.

Most sales are from the standard range and take eight to ten weeks to delivery. Specially commissioned pieces can take up to six months.

Notable commissions include replicas for Christie's of its Chippendale auctioneer's rostrum and conference tables for the Bank of England, the Crown Estate

Commissioners and a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting in Bahrain.

Mr Brett quotes a 10ft plain dining table of Sheraton design, with no inlays, two pedestals, plus two leaves, as retailing at £4,108, including VAT. For this, machining will take about 20 hours, cabinet-making 20 hours and plain-top polishing 18 to 20 hours.

Mr Brett said: "The very nature

of our trade is that we are pitching at those whose first concern is not the price. Whether they have the money or not, they have to feel in the mood to buy. These things are cyclical and, at the moment, I feel we are in a good patch. My late father said that you should be able to set the business so it could stand three bad years back to back. That is how we are."

Even so, at the height of the

recent recession, 25 of the workforce were made redundant and the remainder had their hours reduced.

Exports now account for more than 50 per cent of business, and the firm has clients in Japan, Hong Kong, Turkey, Greece, the US, Europe and the Middle East. Two years ago it opened a showroom and office in Pimlico Road, London. "You cannot expect everyone to come down to Norwich," says Mr Brett.

Edward Brett's wife, Molly, has long played an important part in the business, including helping with stands and sets for promotional photographs and shows. Of their three children, the elder son is a surgeon, the second son is already a non-executive director of the firm but works elsewhere, and their daughter is a musician and composer.

Mr Brett reflects: "It is not a foregone conclusion any of them will work in the business. If they do not, we could hire a professional manager. The only obligation, as I see it, is that the children take a bit of interest."

Couple carve venture from wood

NICOLA ADAMSON, 26, and Hamish Low, 35, have blended their talents to form a small furniture-making business, The Furniture Works, at Horsmonden, Kent.

The couple met at Parnham House, in Dorset, where Miss Adamson was studying design and Mr Low was working as cabinet-maker and head craftsman for John Makepeace.

Mr Low admits that the idea of setting up a business alarmed him, but Miss Adamson correctly

surmised that the combination of her design talent and administrative skills and his craftsmanship had the makings of a successful business. She set up the framework of the business by herself, renting a workshop on a light industrial site in an easthouse.

That was in 1992. Their first commission was from a family friend. Since then work has come by word of mouth. Their only advertising is in the parish magazine. Machinery and tools were bought with a family loan, since

repaid. They include a lathe, a pillar drill and a morticer. Turnover has gone from £20,000 to around £35,000 a year.

Virtually all the wood is from local suppliers. Mr Low says: "If a tree blows down, perhaps the service we give by taking it away will mean we have it for free." The pair fell and transport wood, air-dry it outside and then put it in a dehumidifying kiln. They also deliver the finished furniture. Mr Low aims, in time, to take on an apprentice and pass on his craft.

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LAW

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Ensuring real and effective access to justice for everyone must be a key priority for any government concerned with social justice. Under the previous Government, the proportion of our population eligible for legal aid declined from about 80 per cent to less than 50 per cent. Even now, many of those now technically eligible cannot afford the financial contributions they are required to pay. Clearly, restoring legal aid eligibility to some of those now excluded must be a priority. But that cannot be enough on its own. Nor will it be achieved at all unless the Government can make savings on the cases now funded by legal aid.

It is no longer good enough for lawyers or others connected with the justice system simply to call for more and more legal aid — to restore eligibility levels, or to cover tribunals or defamation — without showing how that could be funded. Pressures on public expenditure make it implausible to expect spending

Winners should pay into the pot

on legal aid to grow much faster than the rate of growth in the economy generally. If we are committed to improving access to justice, we must take a constructive and imaginative approach to help the Government in its quest to obtain the best value for public money spent on the justice system.

The Law Society has already developed a constructive proposal as to how this could be achieved. Under this scheme, those receiving legal aid in personal injury cases would pay a success fee calculated as a percentage of the normal legal costs of the case if they win. That is exactly what happens now for private litigants using conditional fees. The same principle could apply to all civil cases where the plaintiff is seeking to recover money or other property. The success fee

would be paid not to the lawyer but to the legal aid fund, to provide cover for other cases.

In some cases it is not possible to make a realistic assessment of the prospects of success early on. That applies to most medical negligence cases. In those circumstances, conventional legal aid would need to be retained to fund the initial investigation before an informed assessment could be made. The Law



PHILLIP SYCAMORE

Society's proposal is a modification of earlier proposals for a contingency legal aid fund first suggested by Justice, the law reform pressure group, in 1966. But

under that proposal, successful litigants would pay a fixed percentage of the damages they recovered. That would involve a systematic cross-subsidy from those whose cases are virtually certain to succeed to those whose prospects are more doubtful. As a result, those with strong cases would be asked to pay a disproportionate share of their damages.

Now that conditional fees are permitted, and are clearly popular, those with strong cases would inevitably opt for a private conditional fee arrangement rather than an unmodified contingency

legal aid fund. The absence of the strongest cases would make the whole fund unviable. The Law Society proposal overcomes these problems by adopting the individual assessment of risk used for conditional fees. There is thus no systematic cross-subsidy between one group of cases and another, and no reason for individual litigants to opt out of the scheme.

Some people will object that any scheme of this sort is unfair, because it involves successful litigants giving up a portion of their damages to meet the costs of other people's cases. But that is a counsel of perfection. If — as I believe will be the case — conditional fees become the dominant method of funding money claims for private litigants, there is no reason the same approach

should not be used for legal aid. I do not pretend that a conditional legal aid fund would be a panacea for all the problems of legal aid. It would do nothing to tackle the problems with criminal or family cases, or with civil cases where money or other property is not at stake. The Law Society has other proposals that will help to tackle the problems of those areas.

I am sure, however, that a conditional legal aid fund can make significant savings in the cost of civil legal aid while at the same time improving access to justice. Those savings can be used to help to restore legal aid to people who are at present unreasonably deprived of it. That would be an excellent start towards meeting the new Government's objective of making the system of justice operate fairly for everyone in our society.

● The author is President of the Law Society.

The toughening of measures against domestic violence provides better protection for victims, reports **Chris Barton**

A new shield against attacks at home

On October 1, a delayed triumph awaits the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Five months after his departure from the Woolfsack, the domestic violence provisions of the Family Law Act 1996 come into being. This will itself be some two years after his original Bill on the subject was withdrawn in the face of media and backbench misunderstanding.

Whether the 1995 wreckers — "family valuers", every one — came to realise the error of their way, or were deceived by the cosmetic changes in the 1996 Bill or were merely side-tracked by its divorce provisions, is uncertain. What is clear is that all family courts now have better methods of protecting people victimised by past and present members of their own households.

The statistics for physical attacks are unpleasant. One in seven wives reports rape by her own husband and, in a recent survey, nearly one in three women claimed to have been assaulted by her male partner. It is an established truism that domestic violence is no respecter of social boundaries. The Women's Aid Federation of England says:

"We've had a judge's wife, we've had social workers' wives. Their Scottish counterparts parody the claim that victims 'ask for it' with this mock advice to women: 'DON'T fight back. You'll make it worse. And DON'T cower away. It'll make him feel guilty, so he'll hit you more.' The criminal courts recently heard of an attempt by a 16-year-old to kill his

One in seven wives reports rape by her own husband

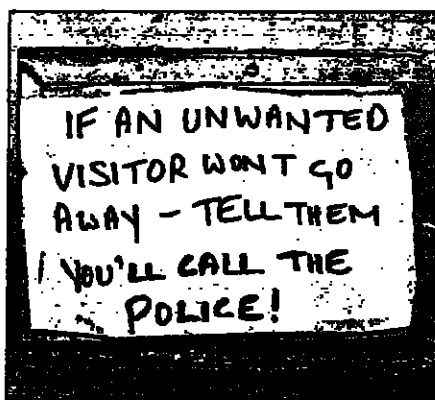
mother because he was being threatened with shooting by his father if he did not.

Parliament's previous attempts to protect victims of household attacks date from the Domestic Violence (Matrimonial Proceedings) Act 1976. (In a presentiment of events 20 years later, I recall a "liberal studies" class of agricultural students politely disbelieving that a chap could be barred

from "his" house just for beating up his wife.) The ensuing 20-year mishmash of accumulated legislative effort produced anomalies between the various levels of courts, and no recorded reduction in the amount of partner abuse. Other — perceived — failings included less protection for some sorts of partners than for others, and none at all for gay couples.

Who are to be given what the Act's advisers might call "new" or "improved" rights? The answer lies in the cold term "associated persons". This includes former spouses or cohabitants, present or former same-sex partners; and mere house-sharers: the evidence is that all forms of abuse committed by men against women also occur between women and between men. Incidentally, evidence suggests that the fabled husband-basher, nominally covered by new and old law alike, is a very rare bird.

Children and their abusive parents are also "associated persons" although the court will need to be satisfied that minors aged under 16 have sufficient understanding of what is involved in the application. The increased awareness of the long-term impact on children who witness their



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fathers abusing their mothers precludes any mitigation implicit in the "defence" that he "never touches the kids".

The Opposition successfully moved an amendment permitting separate legal representation for such children, and the police may now take action on behalf of a victim, so the prospects for removing from the home the abuser rather than the child are much improved.

How can the courts help these people, violated by those to whom they looked for support? "Non-molestation" orders are retained from the old law. Yet the expression was reportedly misunderstood by the likes of estranged step-

fathers, who thought it referred only to sexual abuse. The new Act allows for such orders to spell out what will not be allowed, such as pestering the child outside school.

An expression coined by the 1996 Act is the more potent "occupation" order. Partners who persecute should be

aware that it is more extensive than its predecessor, the so-called ouster order. Under the new law, the court may require the miscreant to leave the victim in sole possession of their intended, not merely their current, home. This would, for example, cover the couple who had sold their ex-

isting home while doing up a new place bought in the husband's sole name.

But how did Lord Mackay placate those who had scuppered his previous attempt to equate cohabitants with spouses? The answer is that the 1996 Act requires the court, in considering applica-

tions from women faced with mere paramour abuse, to have regard to the greater commitment involved in matrimony. The more realistic differential is that such women's occupation orders are limited to a maximum of one year.

● The author is Professor of family law at Staffordshire University.

Call to cut court cuts

MAGISTRATES' courts in England and Wales have been forced to make so many spending cuts that the quality of the service that they offer will be undermined if further savings are demanded, says Anne Fuller, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, in its 77th annual report.

"The drive for efficiency affects everyone in the criminal justice system," she says. "We must not, however, so elevate the needs of the system that we forget that we are there to provide a service."

The association is particularly concerned about cuts in the number of justices' clerks, the closure of magistrates' courts and long delays for new projects because of the Government's insistence that they be funded by the Private Finance Initiative.

Definite maybe

CITY solicitors are much exercised about whether or not the Government's plans for a new super-regulator will be a success. The verdict of a 34-page report on the planned reform by Clifford Chance's public policy group is: maybe.

The report argues that there is a lot of potential for a welcome rationalisation of the current system but there are many possible pitfalls, such as

INNS AND OUTS

creating a "bureaucratic pyramid" that need to be avoided.

Upwardly mobile

All change at the top of the Government Legal Service: Anthony Inglese (now legal adviser to the MoD) takes over as deputy Treasury Solicitor from David Hogg. Hogg has become legal adviser to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, taking over from Marylyn Morgan, who succeeds Peter Thompson, QC, at the

Department of Health and Social Security.

● More than 1,500 solicitors have already joined the Law Society's new "probate" section since its launch in July. The new section will give business support and practical benefits to solicitors who do probate work. Details: Sonia Purser, 0171-320 5591.

Far and away

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, and the de-

partment's Parliamentary Secretary, Geoffrey Hoon, have hit the highway. Lord Irvine last week became the first Cabinet minister to visit Hong Kong since its handover to China. He announced that two serving British law lords are to sit on the former colony's new Court of Final Appeal.

In one day last week Mr Hoon visited a pilot project on Birmingham on "divorce information", the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors at Leamington Spa and a pilot project at Leicester.

Talking shop

LORD WOOLF, Master of the Rolls, is speaking at a conference sponsored by the Lord Chancellor's Department on tribunals and "administrative justice".

The three-day meeting is being held by Professor Martin Partington and Bristol University's Centre for the Study of Administrative Justice from November 26 to 28.

Expert view

A BRIEF advert in the latest issue of *The Messenger*, the Manchester Law Society's monthly magazine, begins: "Formedecan, services include: Arson." Only further down the list of the company's skills does it become clear that Formedecan had not placed its advert in the wrong journal and is in fact a high reputation expert witness company.

SCRIVENOR

Crime and punishment

ALEX AGBAMU, a criminal barrister, appears as a contestant in the new *Gladiators* TV series on Saturday. Agbamu, 31, runs three or four times each week and when younger took part in rugby, judo and gymnastics. He says: "Sammy, my four-year-old son, persuaded me to enter. It is more physically demanding than I thought, but enjoyable. The gladiators look big on screen. In the flesh they are even bigger and give no quarter."



Agbamu: tough stuff

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To find out more, please contact our retained consultants, Jonathan Bennett or Yvonne Smith, on 0171-606 8844 or 0171-606 8844 evenings/weekends or write to them at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2N 2PY. Confidentiality law 0171-606 8844. Email: jonathan@zmb.co.uk



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We offer a good salary with generous benefits including non-contributory pension, corporate bonus and most of all, the chance to shine.

If you are ready to increase your profile, send your CV to: Mrs R. A. Williams, Personnel Department, PO Box 244, Southville, Bristol BS99 7UJ.

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New name, but bad old habits

Ann Abraham, the new Legal Services Ombudsman, takes up her position next week. The function of the LSO is to oversee the handling of complaints against solicitors, barristers and licensed conveyancers. Coincidentally, this month is also the first anniversary of the reorganisation and renaming of the Solicitors Complaints Bureau (now the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors).

Miss Abraham is a former chief executive of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux and, by reputation, no soft touch. At this point, it would be usual to say something about the difficulty of her new position. But a lawyers' regulator can easily give herself a quiet life and win applause. All she has to do is talk tough and sprinkle her annual report with quotable phrases of the "solicitors are drinking in the Last Chance Saloon" type. I assume that Miss Abraham has higher aspirations.

If only because of the sheer size of their profession, it is

Martin Mears believes that changes to the SCB do not go far enough

solicitors and their regulatory body, the OSS, that will be the new LSO's main customers. How should she set about her task? She could start by reading the literature produced by the SCB during the past seven years and in particular its annual reports. These she may find puzzling.

She will undoubtedly wonder, for instance, why last year the Law Society went to the effort and expense of reorganising its regulatory arm. What was supposed to be amiss?

In a succession of annual reports, the SCB had presented itself as a model of efficiency and fairness, with criticism dismissed as ill-informed or malicious. The

flow of glad tidings culminated in the SCB's July 1995 press release. This claimed that the quality of the bureau's decision-making was demonstrated by "an almost faultless record on appeals". The reorganisation carried out in 1991 had resulted in a system that could "be regarded as the Rolls-Royce of decision-making". We were told that, "in an external quality audit in May 1995, a statistical sample of files taken at random disclosed no delay or error".

In the face of such claims, why was there a second reorganisation in five years? The reality was that the outside world's perception of the SCB was so negative that the Law Society had concluded that nothing less than a relaunch under a new identity would quell the torrent of criticism.

As it turned out, the latest reorganisation was purely cosmetic.

Meanwhile, such evidence as there is suggests that the bad old practices and attitudes of the SCB continue mostly unchanged. What is different is that the OSS has become yet



Ann Abraham, the new ombudsman: no soft touch, Martin Mears believes



another outpost of Management Man. What it lacks in performance, it makes up in presentation. It has its Business Plan and Key Tasks. Complainants are "customers". It has its Mission Statement. Its Masthead Slogan.

But the same impossible caveats continue to be handled by the same personnel with the same levels of delay and complainant dissatisfaction. During my presidency, I

proposed that the Law Society appoint an independent Visitor (not another tame committee) of genuine stature to oversee the OSS. This would ensure that at long last we had solid facts about the OSS's performance.

Without such knowledge, how can effective reforms be undertaken? Anyway, the idea fell on stony soil and is unlikely to be revived. It is, I fear, only a matter of time be-

fore the renamed SCB attracts more adverse reports of the kind published by the National Consumer Council and the Law Society's own research unit during the past few years -- to say nothing of the adverse reports that fail to see the light of day.

● The author is a past President of the Law Society, a society council member and editor of the Law Society's Client Care Guide. His views are his own.

Lawyers find it pays well to move jobs

A survey of 500 reveals that half would switch for higher salaries, says Frances Gibb

The legal job market is in flux. Once law was a job for life. Now many lawyers look to switch jobs within a few years, according to new research this week.

A survey by Zarak Macrae Bremner (ZMB) with The Times of more than 500 lawyers in firms of up to 80 partners and qualified for up to six years found that half are likely to change jobs in the next 12 months, and one quarter are "very likely". Money is a motivating factor for many. The lower the salary, the more likely lawyers are to be tempted to move. Some 60 per cent of those surveyed who were earning less than £30,000 are likely to change jobs in the next 12 months but only 37 per cent of those earning £30,000 to £70,000. Most (60 per cent) fell into the £30,000 to £49,999 salary range; with 26 per cent below £30,000. However, 14 per cent were already earning more than £50,000.

Those who said they were likely to change jobs, and in a finding that will fuel anxiety about poaching by US law firms in the City, one third of those planning a move would consider joining an American law firm in London.

The reason is the perceived higher rates of pay coupled with "quality and type of clients and work".

Some, though, want to leave the high-pressure world of commercial law altogether. Of those planning a move, a quarter were considering leaving the City to improve their quality of life and cut their working hours. Respondents were asked how important benefits were when choosing a job. Pension, closely followed by more holiday, came top of the list. Next came healthcare, bonus and life insurance. At the other end of the scale came "own car", which was not highly rated.



How will they find new jobs? Some 80 per cent said they would use both recruitment agencies and the trade press, with The Lawyer top of the list, followed by the Law Society Gazette. The Times topped the national newspapers both for job-hunting and general reading: 71 per cent said they read it at least once a week.

A European success story

Christopher Stoakes on the first anniversary of a glossy title

With so much to read already, few lawyers would welcome another magazine to fill their crowded in-trays. But *European Counsel*, a monthly celebrating its first anniversary, has proved there is room in the marketplace. Now with 4,000 subscribers, and an estimated 20,000 readers, it is published by PLC, which first made its mark with lawyers in 1980, when it launched *Practical Law for Companies*.

That magazine was a hit in corporate legal departments because of its technical yet accessible content. Every article was edited several times over, illustrated with colour flow diagrams and charts and packaged in an attractive way. The style reflects the pedigree of the magazine's

founders. Both Robert Dow and Chris Millerchip were lawyers with Slaughter & May when they decided that producing a magazine to show that the way big transactions were put together was more interesting and fun than working on the transactions themselves. Strong explanatory graphics and speed-reading summaries made the information easier to digest.

PLC also coincided with the rise of the in-house lawyer. Until the mid-1980s, in-house lawyers were deemed second-class legal citizens, rejects who had failed to become partners in law firms. But with the

recession came the realisation that life in law firms was hard and unpredictable. PLC was targeted directly at this new constituency, and whatever in-house lawyers were reading had to be read by the law firms that served them.

European Counsel has taken this a step further. Aimed at companies with operations and legal departments spanning the European single market, its philosophy is that Europe has to be taken as a whole, even though the legal systems of individual member states differ greatly.

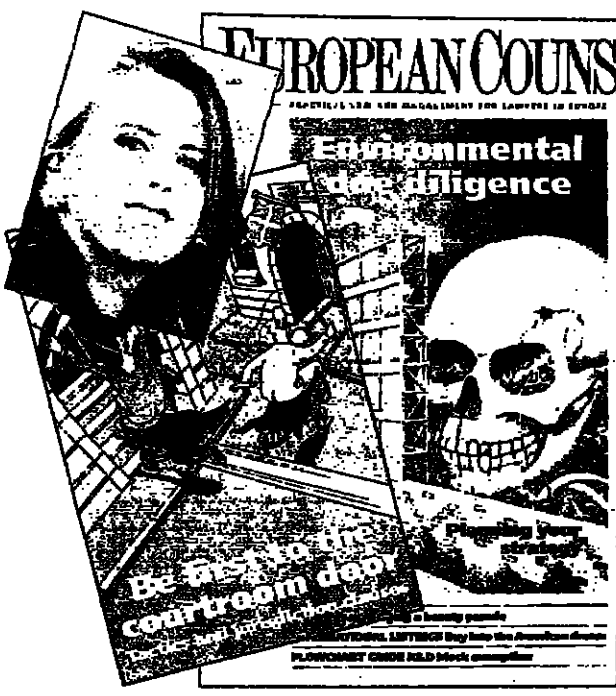
Mr Dow says: "Law is catching up with business.

Many companies are operating on the single market model."

Before starting *European Counsel*, Mr Dow and Mr Millerchip brought in Josephine Carr, formerly editor of *International Financial Law Review*. "PLC was well-known in the UK," says Mr Dow. "Jo joined to extend our reach internationally."

With *European Counsel* already in mind (the magazine is now growing among US readers), the trio went on to create a directory of European in-house lawyers.

European Counsel Direct, in its fourth year, is more than a listing of in-house lawyers. It provides an overview of the law in 46 countries, as well as details of leading local law firms.



European Counsel, and Josephine Carr, its editor

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INSOLVENCY
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CORPORATE
1 to 6 Years Qualified
We have a number of instructions from the top Australian law firms who are seeking to recruit lawyers from leading London law firms. Applicants should either be Australians or New Zealanders seeking to return to UK lawyers with private academics who are prepared to commit to working in Sydney for a minimum of three years. Applicants would be expected to start in late December or early January (our winter/Sydney's summer). Ref: T11692.D

CONSTRUCTION
NQ to 3 Years Qualified
Major City firm with a highly respected construction department requires a solicitor or a barrister with experience of advising site owners and property developers on both contentious and non-contentious aspects of property development work. Work includes dispute resolution, High Court and domestic and international arbitrations. Training in this firm is highly respected. Ref: T11786

SHIPPING
2 to 4 Years Qualified
Those with dry shipping litigation experience are now sought by highly regarded international City practice with offices throughout the world. Opportunity for secondments overseas is particularly good at this firm. The role will be challenging and diverse and is an excellent environment for bright and capable individuals. Ref: T07799.G

BANKING
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PROJECT FINANCE
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4 Years+ Qualified
A major investment bank with a significant presence in London is now looking for a capital markets lawyer to help develop the capital markets function. Candidates should relish the opportunity to be in a position of responsibility and to co-ordinate this part of the bank's activities. Work will involve emerging markets, bond trading, derivatives etc. Must have relevant experience gained from either private practice or another well regarded investment bank. Ref: T12042.E

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Please contact Alison Barrett, Gavin Crocker or Dominique W Pengelly (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office for more information in complete confidence. Evenings Weekends 0171 736 1143. Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Email: alison@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

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Reporting to the Company Secretary, you will be part of the company secretarial team with particular responsibility for the legal management of overseas acquisitions.

Your specific role will be to support the strategy and development department on legal issues relating to acquisitions and developments, particularly overseas, to

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manage outside legal advisers and generally to give ad hoc advice on day to day legal matters arising across the group.

The successful candidate will be a Solicitor with at least three years' experience in a major international company with some mergers and acquisitions experience, will have a sound commercial mind and be a team player with a flexible attitude to problem solving. Fluency in at least one other European language is highly desirable.

A generous remuneration package will reflect the importance of this position.

For further details, please contact Sonya Rayner, Aileen Shepherd or Morwenna Lewis.
All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

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It is essential that you have a minimum of 6 years' direct long-tail claims handling experience in the London Market, preferably in asbestos and on behalf of a Lloyds syndicate. Alternatively you could be working in the pollution department of a large composite insurer. Either way you must be a strong communicator with proven expertise in data collection and management reporting.

Equitas is determined to set the highest professional and ethical standards within the claims arena. If you feel you can make an impact in this challenging role, then contact Julia Shaw, Human Resources Department, Equitas Management Services Limited, 33 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8LL.

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Corporate - New York/London **UK Qualified**
A similar caseload to the above. However, this position is mainly based in our New York office. The ideal candidate must be prepared to travel extensively between London and New York, and have at least 5 years' ppe.

Energy/Oil & Gas - London **UK Qualified**
4/5 years' ppe in project work. This position will involve significant international involvement and travel.

Tax - London **UK Qualified**
5 years' + ppe in UK and international tax planning. The ideal candidate must be technically excellent and have strong entrepreneurial skills.

Insurance - London **US Qualified**
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PRIVATE CLIENT LAWYER FOR THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE

The Public Trust Office, an executive agency of the Lord Chancellor's Department responsible for the management of private assets exceeding £3 billion, is seeking a full-time lawyer.

As part of a small professional team, you will provide advice and guidance to lay caseworkers in the areas of Trusts, Property and Mental Health. There is a small caseload in addition. The appointment is based in London and is expected to be permanent although a secondment or loan would be considered.

You must be a qualified solicitor or barrister, preferably with at least two years' ppe in a relevant area of law. In addition, you must demonstrate legal and analytical abilities, including a good grasp of legal principles; have the ability to reason and argue cogently; show good judgement, written and interpersonal skills and be able to produce high quality work quickly.

Starting salary is £27,411 plus a recruitment and retention allowance of £1,776 although more might be available for an exceptional candidate.

For an information pack please call our recruitment line on 0171 210 1302 during office hours before 25th September 1997. Application forms and recruitment information are also available in large print and on cassette.

The Lord Chancellor's Department is committed to equality of opportunity in employment for all who are eligible, on the basis of ability, qualifications, and fitness for work. Applications are invited from all qualified individuals irrespective of race, gender, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.



PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAWYERS IN THE CRIMINAL APPEAL OFFICE

London



The Lord Chancellor's Department is currently seeking two lawyers for the Criminal Appeal Office. The appointments are based in London and are expected to be permanent although secondments or loans would be considered.

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You must be a qualified solicitor or barrister. You must be able to demonstrate:

- a good grasp of legal principles;
- legal and analytical abilities;
- the ability to reason and argue cogently and to make balanced judgements;
- the ability to express yourself well in writing;
- the ability to produce high quality work quickly;
- good interpersonal skills;
- a sound knowledge of and enthusiasm for criminal law.

Starting salary is £27,411 plus a recruitment and retention allowance of £1,776, although more might be available for an exceptional candidate.

For an information pack please call our recruitment line on 0171 210 1302 during office hours before 25th September 1997. Application forms and recruitment information are also available in large print and on cassette.

The Lord Chancellor's Department is committed to equality of opportunity in employment for all who are eligible, on the basis of ability, qualifications, and fitness for work. Applications are invited from all qualified individuals irrespective of race, gender, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.

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TIME FOR A SEPTEMBER MOVE?

SENIOR PROJECTS

Top Ten City firm with leading practice in oil, gas and energy and impressive contacts in emerging markets seeks partners and senior assistants with excellent general or specialised projects experience. Apply if you have the commercial and business development skills to assist in building the group to help maintain its pre-eminence. (Ref.20195)

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IN-HOUSE COMMERCIAL

European HQ of multi-national financial services company seeks a 3-6 year qualified commercial lawyer for leasing, acquisitions, due diligence, compliance, regulation and cross border work. You will have impressive academic, blue chip legal experience, ideally a second European language, be proactive and an excellent team player. Top salary and benefits. (Ref.20698)

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Are you frustrated or marking time in a traditional hierarchy, with no room to maximise your potential? This City firm seeks a talented and ambitious 8-10 year banking lawyer to join a fast growing department. The firm with open management style and an unpretentious approach, welcomes experienced banking lawyers with problem solving skills and commercial acumen. (Ref.20646)

£50-80,000

CORP FINANCE/TRADING GIVEN

Major City firm is looking for an extremely enthusiastic 1-2 year corporate lawyer to join its corporate finance department with close IT client links. Relevant experience is not essential as comprehensive training will be given, but you need to have excellent academic and good quality company/commercial background. IT experience would be helpful, but more important is a keen interest in the sector. (Ref.20694)

£33-38,000

LITIGATION

The close-link, medium sized City firm seeks lawyers with 1-2 years' experience to join its dynamic commercial dispute resolution group. The well respected and growing department has an increasing mixed caseload covering commercial, property, construction and employment litigation. You need good academic, a sound litigation track record and determination to succeed. (Ref.20399)

£30-36,000

SENIOR PENSIONS

Superb opportunity to build your own team at this rapidly expanding international business law firm with focus on high quality work and corporate connections. If you have excellent pensions experience and proven business development skills, this firm has an enviable client list for you to exploit. (Ref.20699)

TO £300,000

IN-HOUSE ACQUISITION FINANCE

US multi-regional with strong European presence seeks first time legal counsel for Europe. Providing venture capital for business expansion, you will structure, draft and negotiate finance deals. A finance lawyer with at least 5 years' relevant acquisition or venture capital experience, good business sense and European legal language skills would be ideal. (Ref.20502)

IN-HOUSE JUNIOR BANKING

Leading worldwide investment banking, securities and brokerage firm with European operation in London seeks a 1-3 year qualified lawyer to join a close link team supporting the investment banking business. You will be a finance lawyer with either general banking or financial products experience. Re-entrants will be given to candidates who can demonstrate a genuine interest in capital markets. (Ref.20642)

£40-60,000

VAT/TAX

Increasingly successful Top Ten City tax practice, with high profile VAT team, has new opening for 3-5 year lawyer to focus on VAT and other tax related advice. An unrivalled opening to join a major player, you must be an innovative and creative tax specialist with blue chip experience and the commercial will to drive the practice forward. (Ref.20504)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Exciting opportunity for 3-4 year commercial property lawyer to join high profile department in a leading City firm. This will interest ambitious lawyers with commercial law looking for the highest quality work. The prospects are excellent so apply if you are frustrated and yearn to work in a supportive team atmosphere where ability is recognised and well rewarded. (Ref.20640)

TO £46,000

For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact Andrew Golding or Andrew Caulfield (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01727-866670 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-523 3838 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail andy@zmb.co.uk

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Working on a broad range of commercial matters related to its projects, the successful candidates will have between 1-4 years' PQE and are likely to have experience of advising on a range of commercial contracts. It would be advantageous to have had exposure to one or more of the following areas: corporate finance, M&A, joint ventures, project finance, IP or construction contracts.

The quality of the work is outstanding with considerable international exposure and applicants must be prepared for some international travel. These positions provide ambitious and energetic junior lawyers seeking their first in-house move, with an unusual opportunity to gain exposure to front-line commercial issues in a team driven environment. The legal department is organised with a flexible structure to enable skills to be developed in different

business areas and enhance career development.

All posts will be based at BG's headquarters in Thames Valley Park, located on the Thames on the East side of Reading, with easy M4 access. Salary and benefits packages reflect a commitment to recruiting the very best lawyers.

Interested candidates should contact Lindsey Newman or Kathryn Kernick on 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 6498. Or write to In-House Legal at: 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk Internet: http://www.hwgroup.com

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DIRECTOR OF KNOW-HOW

City Law Firm

£80,000

Our client is an international law firm based in the City which has seen its legal practice expand and develop, particularly in the last two years. Already possessing an established infrastructure of Training, Information and Legal Support Services, it has decided for strategic reasons to recruit a Director of Know-How who will report directly to the Practice Partner, a member of the London offices' four partner Management Committee.

The Director of Know-How will be responsible for the strategic management and development of the London office's precedents and know-how, and will also manage the firm's Professional Support Lawyers, setting the strategy and objectives of that team. The individual will be expected to draft precedents and practice notes, and to contribute to the London office's internal and external publications. He or she will also co-ordinate the firm's response to changes and prospective changes in English and UK law and deliver presentations, both internally and to clients.

The role will involve regular contact with partners and with colleague Directors of Library & Information Services and of Training, as well as liaison with the firm's International Know-How Centre.

The ideal candidate will be a high calibre lawyer with a corporate/commercial background and experience of practice up to a senior level. Preference may well be given to those with previous experience as professional support lawyers. Success in this challenging "front-line" role will require drive, vision and considerable management expertise. Excellent communication skills and a practical, business-like approach are essential, as is a real interest in the application of advanced IT systems in the legal environment.

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CONSULTING**

If you feel you have the experience and personality, please send your CV, including salary details and a daytime telephone number, to Hugh Kelly at Kellyfield Consulting, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET. Alternatively, in strictest confidence, please contact him on 0171 588 7878 (0171 226 9398 evenings/weekends). Confidential fax: 0171 588 7020.

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This is a post which will include close involvement in Joint Ventures and will require someone with drive, personality and enthusiasm. Ideally you will have at least 4 years' post qualifying experience gained in a large corporate/commercial firm or in-house within a financial institution. Experience of Consumer Credit Act/Banking Documentation/Financial Services Act work would be a distinct advantage.

In return we offer an attractive salary and a full range of banking benefits including bonus, profit share, non-contributory pension scheme and generous holidays. Where appropriate, consideration will be given to relocation assistance.

Please write with a full CV to Margaret Middlemiss, Human Resources Officer, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, PO Box 31, 42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE. Closing date for applications: 26 September 1997.



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Slaughter and May's highly regarded Pensions, Employee Benefits and Employment Department is looking to recruit lawyers in the following area:-

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You are:-

- a junior or mid-level lawyer from a City or regional firm with an established pensions practice;
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- a lawyer working in-house for a Pensions Consultancy looking to join or return to private practice

We can offer:-

- an impressive portfolio of clients
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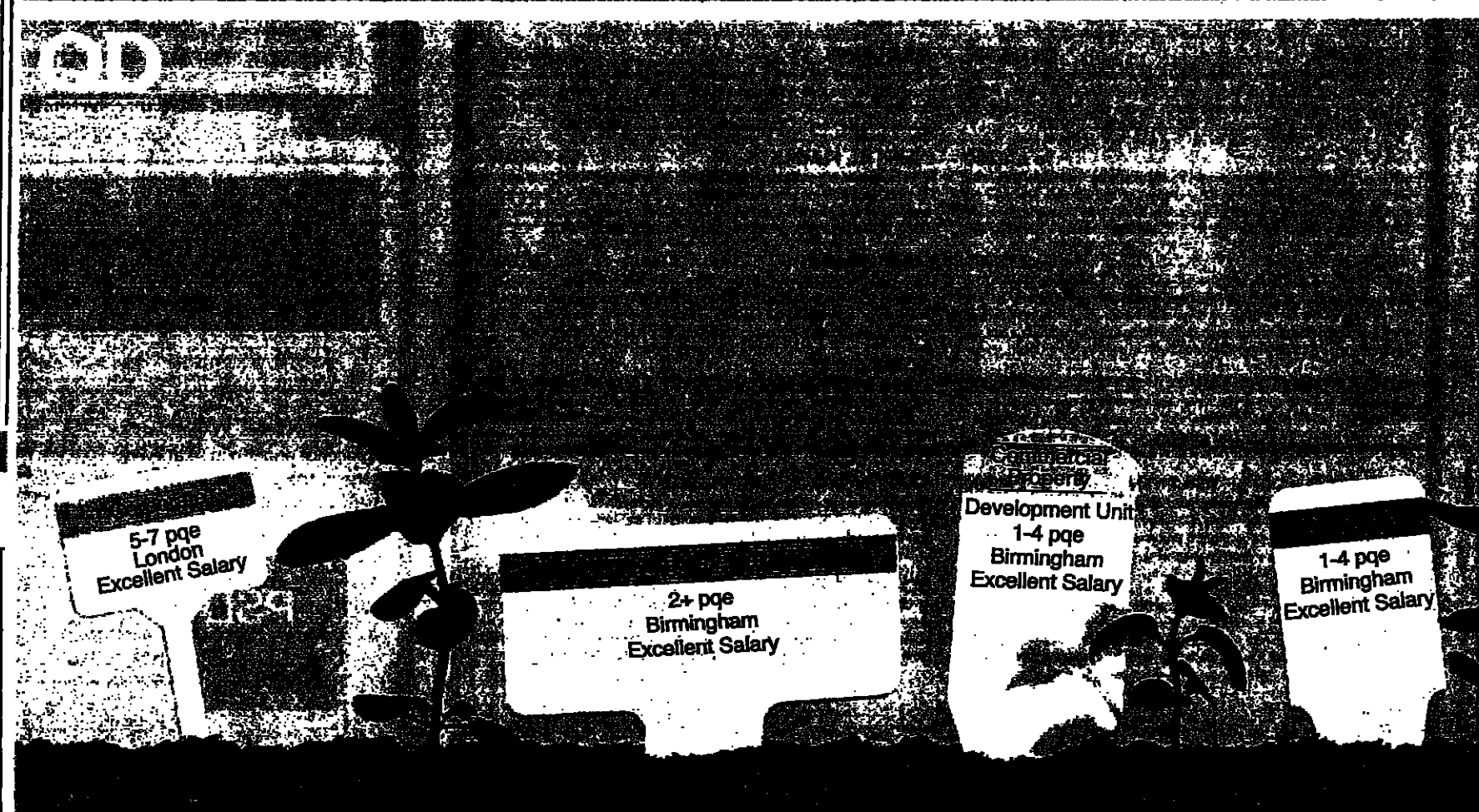
If you have

- a friendly and outgoing nature
- a good academic record
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- commercial acumen

and would like to find out more about working as part of our team please contact...



our retained consultants Stephen Rodney or Sarah David on 0171-405 6062 (0171-354 3079 or 0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.



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To grow and develop, the right environment is crucial. At Edge & Ellison, we can offer all the elements you need to flourish and more. As a firm committed to its clients, we offer a comprehensive 'seamless' service through one or a combination of our departments and offices. We appreciate fully the fundamental issues affecting business and industry and treat all instructions with the same high degree of quality service. So, if you're a lawyer who could take root and thrive in these conditions, you'll be in line for an excellent salary package, alongside a rewarding career. Please call our Training & Recruitment Partner, Graham Smith on 0800 134441 to find out more. Or, for an initial discussion in complete confidence, please contact our Recruitment Advisers at Quarry Douglas; Chris Cayley in Birmingham on 0121 212 9555 or William Cook in London on 0171 405 6062 (01242 241377 evenings/weekends).

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Sabbaticals

During the recession, finding and holding a job was the paramount concern. If sabbaticals were taken, they tended to be involuntary. Now, with improved confidence in the job-market, the longing to take three or six months' leave to see the world is reasserting itself. Managing partners, unfortunately, view things differently. Mostly short-staffed, they find the idea of sabbaticals unappealing. They would have preferred their staff to take time out in the recession. Sabbaticals for partners - relatively common in the USA - are becoming accepted policy among English law firms. However, we know of no firm which allows sabbaticals for assistant solicitors. This does not stop assistants taking sabbaticals. They are taken on a quasi-official basis. The assistants announce their intention to take three months off and trust that their employers will re-employ them when they return. In current circumstances, most firms are pleased to take them back, although none will promise to do so. But then, current circumstances mean or less guarantee re-employment, and people will take a chance. For assistant solicitors two years qualified, a three-month break is unlikely to do their career much harm. More senior assistants, however, need to think carefully. An extended break could affect their prospects of partnership.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from EBK, (01403-710 971)

INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd

Commercial Lawyer: Saudi Arabia
Excellent opportunity for experienced international commercial lawyer with at least 15 years' post qualification experience to oversee major construction project.

Leisure: South London
Lawyers min 2 years' ppe required to join small in-house team. Broad workload will include international contracts, litigation, marketing and company secretarial.

Leasing: London
Major international finance company seeks lawyer min 5-6 years' post qualification experience. Experience of equipment leasing essential. Languages would be useful as position will involve some travel.

PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson
SOUTH: Helen Mills, Noel Murray, Hedley Walsh **NORTH: Suki Bahra, Paul Thomas**

Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Litigation Partner: City
Successful and highly profitable niche commercial firm in EC1 seeks lively and ambitious commercial litigation partner (plus up to two assistants) with a part following.

Head of Private Client Designate
Wonderful opportunity for senior solicitor to become head of department of highly-regarded Holborn practice when incumbent retires in a few years time.

Insolvency: City
Medium City firm offers outstanding opportunity to 4-6 year ppe insolvency lawyer to handle high quality non-contentious work for banking clients. Real prospects.

Commercial Property: City
Leading City firm offers 0-1 yr qualified solicitor superb training and expc acting for major financial institutions on big-ticket developments and acquisitions.

Consumer Goods: Surrey
Household name requires solicitor 0-2 years' ppe to handle consumer matters, commercial contracts and employment issues as part of a close knit team. Package includes a car.

Commercial: Gloucester
Newly/recently qualified solicitor sought to advise on information technology, employment and contractual matters. Opportunity for real commercial involvement.

Patents: South East
Blue chip company seeks lawyer min 3 years' ppe prepared to qualify as a patent attorney. Role involves drafting/prosecuting patent specifications and preparing trademark applications.

Commercial Litigation: EC2
National firm with strong litigation bias seeks newly to 2 year qualified commercial litigation assistant to handle a wide range of work for high profile clients.

Commercial Property Partner: City
Highly successful niche firm seeks senior solicitor with good City experience for broad caseload. No following required.

Construction: City
City office of large national firm seeks newly to 1 year qual construction assistant to join a well regarded team handling both contentious and non-contentious work.

Marine/Commercial Lit: South West
Exciting opportunity for bright, resilient and motivated solicitor c. NQ-3 yrs' ppe to join ex-City team. Insurance litigation expc and/or exposure to shipping preferred.

Commercial Property: Manchester
Progressive firm seeks 0-2 year qualified solicitor for mixed property caseload. Good experience will be rewarded with attractive salary and prospects.

Contracts and Commercial Manager

Central London

£43,000 + Benefits

Our client has recently been acquired by one of the leading European IT companies involved in consultancy, systems integration, products and outsourcing. It operates in partnership with other businesses within an exciting and rapidly evolving marketplace. As a result of an internal promotion, a challenging and commercially focused opportunity has arisen for a new contracts manager.

The Role

- Your brief is to give commercial balance to the contracts process.
- You will set contracts policy in line with group standards and senior management.
- Your focus will be on major contracts process co-ordination, procurement and risk assessment.
- You will manage projects and liaise closely with the group legal department.

The Person

- Comprehensive commercial contracts experience within a major international organisation.
- At least eight years related experience ideally within the IT sector.
- Project management, systems expertise, IPR (trademark licensing and royalty) knowledge
- A team player with strong people, leadership and negotiating skills.

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, then please contact Daniel Richards on 0171 269 2234 or write to him, enclosing a full CV (including daytime telephone number and details of current remuneration) at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN, fax 0171 831 6662.



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British Waterways

British Waterways is the leading inland navigation body in the UK, managing and caring for over 2000 miles of Britain's canals and rivers, which provide the basis for a highly successful leisure and tourism business.

Recent key achievements include:

- dramatic improvements in waterways maintenance standards;
- successfully attracting new investment, working closely with the private sector to invest in leisure facilities;
- securing grant funding from the Millennium Commission for a regeneration project around Scotland's Lowlands Canals and the largest ever award by the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- exploiting new opportunities in the market, owning and caring for Waterside properties, including planning innovative developments to provide leisure facilities;
- leading internationally on waterways management issues.

We seek a 6-7 year qualified solicitor with experience in Central or Local Government or a similar public authority. You must have a good understanding of Parliamentary procedures and be politically sensitive with the ability to deal with politicians at local and national level. You must be commercially minded and also have the energy and commitment to work with our existing legal team, to help drive the organisation forward. There will be the opportunity to make a significant contribution to corporate policy and to influence our future direction.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact our advising consultants, Lisa Hicks and Lizzie Orange at ZMB Industry, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Telephone 0171-523 3838 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends). Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail lisa@zmb.co.uk Website <http://www.zmb.co.uk>

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POST HOLIDAY BLUES? . . .

EU/COMPETITION

To £50,000
Your career will really sprout at this top 15 City firm as you will act as the London contact for the firm's Brussels practice. You will have 2-4 years' ppe in EU and competition law, as well as the ability to take a leading role in representing the practice. This responsibility is superbly rewarded. Ref: T34665

PENSIONS

To £65,000
City firms' growing interest in offering clients good pensions advice is reflected in an opening at this top 20 firm, where excellent rewards and even better prospects are the carrot for a lawyer with 0-4 years' ppe. If newly qualified, you need to show some pensions experience in articles. Ref: T30175

TAX

To £38,000
Early partnership is very much on the agenda here if you can offer this medium-sized City firm's impressive client base top quality corporate tax advice. You will be 18 months to 2 years qualified, have a good training and academic background and perhaps an ATII qualification as well. Ref: T33246

PROPERTY

To £37,000
The energy and enthusiasm this well-known medium-sized City firm is looking for in the 1-3 years qualified property lawyers it needs only reflects the nature of the firm. A good time allied with excellent partnership prospects makes this an attractive proposition for a lawyer keen on a real role of work. Ref: T41918

EMPLOYMENT

To £48,000
At this leading City practice, you have the chance to give your employment clients a full service, meaning involvement in ancillary work, such as related commercial matters. An excellent career move if you have 0-1 years' ppe and ideally some French and Italian skills. Ref: T40461

IT/TELECOMS/IP LITIGATION

To £52,000
A move to this top 10 City firm will set you up for life. The experience and training you will gain - either as an IT/telecoms specialist with 3+ years' ppe or an IP litigator with 3-4 years' ppe - is unbeatable. The IP litigator should ideally have an electronics/electrical engineering background. Ref: T4532

CORPORATE/BANKING

To £45,000
Hanoi is a fantastic place to view Asia from and this top City firm will give you an excellent opportunity to broaden your M&A or projects experience. You will also have the chance to take weekend breaks around the rest of Asia, paid for by the firm providing you have 3 years' corporate or banking ppe. Ref: T31640

CORPORATE/BANKING Moscow

To £100,000+
One of the world's leading firms; a very exciting move abroad; fantastic rewards; and great clients. The Moscow office of this top 10 US firm offers it all. If you are a corporate or banking lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe and an adventurous streak, this could be the perfect move. Russian not required. Ref: T18385

TELECOMS

To £52,000
Telecoms lawyers are much in demand right now as the market recovers, a fact recognised by this top 10 international firm. So as well as offering cutting-edge work for top clients, it will also map out a future that will take you all the way to a lucrative partnership. You will need 2-4 years' ppe. Ref: T40812

CAPITAL MARKETS

To £70,000
Few firms can match the quality of training and experience on offer at this top 10 City firm, especially in capital markets where it is pre-eminent. An exceptional move for an exceptional lawyer with 0-5 years' ppe, perhaps in corporate, who is especially keen on raising capital for project financing. Ref: T40728

CORPORATE

To £55,000
The long-established London office of this major US firm has been much in the headlines recently as it expands its practice in new and innovative ways. It makes now a very clever time to join, especially if you are a corporate lawyer with 0-3 years' ppe keen to make a reputation for yourself. Ref: T19209

CORPORATE

To £Partnership
Ride the crest of this highly-rated City firm's corporate wave and find yourself washed up at the partnership shore if you are an experienced mainstream corporate lawyer with 5+ years' ppe and good knowledge of AIM, M&A, JV etc. You can expect a strong international slant to your work here. Ref: T40732

BANKING/PROJ/CAP. MARKETS

To £65,000
This US firm is known around the world as a market-leader in finance, and its London office is becoming the hub for much of its work. All the best a US firm has to offer to banking, project finance and capital markets lawyers at any level, as well as a derivatives lawyer with 1-3 years' ppe. Ref: T16595

CORPORATE

To £75,000
Ambitious lawyers only, please. The London office of this major firm is growing at a rate no other firm in the country can match, and there are no plans to slow down. A huge career move for corporate lawyers either 4-6 or 7-8 years' ppe. Partnership prospects are real. Ref: T20640



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Kate Sutcliffe, Nick Peacock or Nicola Farber (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0956 569203 or 0171-228 0476 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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With a truly integrated global practice our Client now seeks to augment its Moscow presence in response to increasing capital markets activity in the CIS.

If you have:

- 1-5 years' US or UK experience from a major international firm
- an excellent academic background
- ideally (although not essentially) Russian language ability

Our Client will provide you with the commitment, quality of work and resources to mould you into a first class international capital markets lawyer.

Entrepreneurial and commercial by nature, our client will ensure that you are noticed, and that you are paid your worth.



If this opportunity excites you, please telephone Gareth Quarry or Kate Sutcliffe on 0171-405 6062 (0956 569203 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. Initial discussions can be held on a no names basis.

Private Practice London

Computer Law/Telecoms

Pioneering IT practice, with unique expertise in the field, seeks non-contentious assistant qualified 3-6 years; outstanding prospect. Ref: T37496

Corporate Tax

Small/medium-sized firm, with blue-chip client-base and unrivalled expertise in its specialisations, seeks tax assistant qualified c.0-3 years. Ref: T36237

Company/Commercial

Pre-eminent City firm requires corporate assistants with 1-4 years' ppe; reputation and quality of work will guarantee future options. Ref: T31541

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Fax: 0171 242 1261
E-Mail: re@psd.co.uk
Internet: www.psd.co.uk

Litigation/Arbitration

Leading City firm needs commercial litigators and international arbitrators admitted 2-5 years; exceptional work with commensurate rewards. Ref: T36341

Commercial Property

One of the fastest-growing City partnerships seeks assistants qualified c.2-4 years to undertake wide range of high-quality property work. Ref: T32931

Construction

Top-rated construction practice requires specialists at 0-2 and 3-4 years ppe. Both litigious and non-contentious applications sought. Ref: T23689

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BARLOW LYDE & GILBERT

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAWYERS

Barlow Lyde & Gilbert is a major international law firm which has enjoyed exceptional growth in the last few years and is widely regarded as one of London's foremost litigation practices.

We now require more solicitors for our busy commercial litigation practice which handles a very wide range of commercial dispute work including a significant professional negligence element.

We are looking for motivated lawyers who not only possess the intelligence required to handle very demanding work very well but who also display commercial acumen and the ability to mix well with clients and colleagues alike.

It is likely (but not essential) that successful candidates will have gained between 2 and 5 years' post qualification experience in the commercial litigation department of another major law firm.

Please apply with a full CV in confidence to:

Pauline Murray,
Personnel Manager,
Barlow Lyde & Gilbert,
Beaufort House,
15 St Botolph Street,
London, EC3A 7NJ



LEGAL AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

In September 1998, the Iridium mobile satellite communications system will begin service, offering global affordable communications, anytime, anywhere, using portable handsets. Iridium Africa Corporation is the gateway operator responsible for the provision of the Iridium service in a territory of 54 nations in Africa and the Mediterranean basin. Iridium Africa Corporation is a member of Iridium LLC, a US based company with a NASDAQ traded subsidiary. To learn more about the Iridium network, please visit our internet site at <http://www.iridium.com>.

Iridium Africa Corporation seeks to fill the following senior positions in its Legal and Governmental Affairs Department. All positions are based at the headquarters in Dubai and require a substantial amount of international travel. Candidates with international exposure and relevant foreign language skills will be given preference.

Legal Commercial Manager

The Legal Commercial Manager will be responsible for drafting and negotiating a variety of contracts, including service provider, roaming partner, interconnection and distributor agreements, in 54 countries across the company's territory. The Legal Commercial Manager will report to the Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs and will work very closely with the company's business development team. Requires three to five years post-qualification commercial law experience, preferably in telecommunications.

Governmental Affairs Manager

The Governmental Affairs Manager will be responsible for the implementation and administration of the company's license acquisition and regulatory compliance program in 54 nations. Responsibilities include providing the lead in obtaining L-Band frequency allocation and equipment type approval/acceptance as well as compliance with security, national sovereignty, emergency, and under-served areas requirements in each jurisdiction. The Governmental Affairs Manager will assist in the company's lobbying efforts on national and international levels and will coordinate the efforts of outside consultants and lobbyists. Requires substantial regulatory and government affairs experience in the field of telecommunications. A legal education is preferred but not required.

To apply for either of the above positions, please send your CV to: Lesley Clark, c/o Mawardi Services (UK) Ltd., 6th Floor, Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 5PN, U.K. or Fax: +44 (171) 629-2586.

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and an ability to communicate practical information about the law to a demanding audience. You will be joining an enthusiastic, committed team of ex-practitioners with an exciting future. Please reply to Robert Dow, PLC Publications, 1 Bargehouse Crescent, 34 Upper Ground, London SE1 1PD. Fax: +44 171 401 9393

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3-4 years' ppe

Geneva

Our client is the supply trading and risk management division of a leading multi-national group. Its dynamic legal department, now seeks to recruit a key player to be the sole lawyer based in Geneva.

With around 3-4 years' ppe you will ideally have an international sale/purchase contracts, commodity trading or derivatives background. However these are not prerequisite and top notch corporate, banking or commercial lawyers with top City firm training and strong academic records will be considered. Fluency in French would be ideal. Commercially aware, the right individual will have highly effective and analytical, drafting and communication skills with the ambition and drive to thrive in this commercial international business environment.

An exceptional remuneration and benefits package is on offer.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Mesleir or Rebecca Evington (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-442 0841 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Mesleir or Kate Sutcliffe on 0171-405 6062 (0956 560203 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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- the other for a 2-6 year qualified commercial property lawyer.

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JUDGE OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS STRASBOURG

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The members of the Court will be elected by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe from lists of three candidates proposed by each State party. Elections to the Court will be for a fixed term, and judges will be eligible for re-election.

The Government invites applications from candidates possessing the necessary qualifications and expertise for this senior judicial appointment. Under the European Convention, judges must be of high moral character and must possess the qualifications required for appointment to high judicial office, or be jurists of recognised competence. The Government will be looking for candidates with all the qualities for high judicial office together with achievement and experience relevant to the post and an operational working knowledge of French. Appointment is not necessarily restricted to British nationals, but all candidates must demonstrate a close current connection with the United Kingdom and familiarity with one or more of its legal systems.

The Government will appoint to the list those candidates best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or, subject to the physical requirements of the office, disability.

Applications must be in writing supported by a CV and the candidate's own assessment of suitability and qualifications for this post, and should reach the Head of Legal Executive Section, Room K107, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH no later than the date shown below.

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Friday 17 October 1997.

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If you wish to discuss this post further with the Director or one of his Deputies, please telephone 01926 822073.

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For further details and an application form please contact Mr B Lawrence, Dept S, Legal Branch, Room 611, Main Building, Fire Brigade HQ, Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SD or telephone 0171-587 4589 quoting ref FB 84. Closing date for the submission of completed application forms is 3 October 1997.

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FOOTBALL

Barcelona win the battle of divided loyalties

I have got a soft spot for Newcastle United, everybody knows that. My father used to take me to St James' Park when I was a boy and we used to get to the ground at midday for a three o'clock kick-off. I bleed black and white, but, when the European Cup Champions' League game against Barcelona starts tomorrow night, there will be no divided loyalties on my part. No way.

I am still very proud and honoured to work for Barcelona and I have still got a big job to do for them. I want them to win. If it was any other club that Newcastle were playing, even PSV Eindhoven, who I enjoyed so much success with in Holland, the opposite would be true. But, even though I am a Geordie, my allegiance tomorrow is to Barcelona.

When the draw was made, I just thought how ironic it was, especially as PSV were in it as well. I have got so many connections with Newcastle, going back to my childhood, and I had the offer to go there as manager last year. It was a great offer, but it came at the wrong time and I decided I had to honour my contract and stay at the Nou Camp.

I will not be there tomorrow because I am in Egypt for the world under-17 championships, looking for good young talent for Barcelona. Yesterday, I saw the best team of young players I have ever seen in my life. Predictably enough, it was Brazilian. Yet, despite all that, my heart and my head will be in Newcastle tomorrow and I am hoping that the match is shown on Egyptian television.

I have got to say that Newcastle are going to have their work cut out to get any change out of Barcelona. We have had a very good start under Louis van Gaal, the new coach. We have won our first

BOBBY ROBSON



on the difficult task facing Newcastle

three games and beaten some good teams already, and the players will be very confident.

Going to Newcastle in front of 37,000 howling Geordies will not bother them. They will relish it. They will not buckle under that kind of pressure. They will not be afraid. Our players will enjoy that kind of frenzied atmosphere. Van Gaal will respect it and not think it is a one-horse race, but they will be confident.

It is important to remember that Barcelona have a formidable European pedigree. Even as recently as last year, when we won the Cup Winners' Cup, we went to Fiorentina in the second leg of the semi-final needing to win that away leg to go through — and we did it. The players at the club know what they have to do to succeed in Europe. Newcastle have not got that kind of experience.

I think Manchester United probably have a better chance of making the next stage. I know they have to get past Juventus, but, this year, I think they can do it. Last year was a learning experience for

young boys such as Butt, Scholes and the two Nevilles and this year they will be better and more confident for it. They will understand how to play a bit of European football.

I think they will provide a much tougher challenge for Juventus all round this year. I am not sure about their centre back situation and I worry sometimes about Pallister and his fitness, but they have got superb full backs, a wonderful midfield and an attack that has enough pace to unsettle defences. As far as Feyenoord, the other big team in their group goes, I don't think they will represent much danger.

I know a lot of the interest in England has centred on Leicester City's UEFA Cup draw against Atlético Madrid. Well, I've seen Atlético at close hand on a number of occasions and they are a very formidable side. It is going to be extremely difficult for Leicester to get past them.

They didn't win anything last season and they are desperate to get back into the Champions' League next year, so they have gone out and spent a lot of money on some very good players. They are already one of the favourites to win the Spanish league this year because they have invested well.

Everyone knows about Vieri and Juninho, but they have also bought a midfield player called Lardín from Español. He can play on either the right or the left and he can beat players at will. In attack, I like Kiko very much. He is a top player, a really wonderful forward. And then there is Panic who is mustard on free kicks. He can put them on a tanner.

As I said, it will be difficult for them. No more difficult than it will be for Newcastle, though.



Juninho, right, celebrates his first goal for Atlético in the Madrid derby on the opening day of the season in Spain

Kaamark holds key in Madrid

FROM ROB HUGHES IN MADRID

IF VENGEANCE can outlast the playing years of the vanquished, then Leicester City might run with even more ferocious purpose in the Vicente Calderón stadium here tonight. Only once before have Leicester City travelled the European route and that, in 1961, came to an abrupt halt at the hands — or the feet — of Atlético Madrid.

Yet City, who have bounced from relegation back to promotion four times in the interim years, are nothing if not optimistic and resilient. Their manager, Martin O'Neill, knows how far spirit can travel in Spanish parts: he played in Northern Ireland's astonishing 1-0 World Cup

victory over Spain in Valencia in 1982 and he and his deputy, John Robertson, helped Nottingham Forest to win the 1980 European Cup against SV Hamburg, again here in Madrid. O'Neill knows the territory, the odds and how to tell it perhaps he even knows how to organise it.

He has a precedent. The spirit of Bilbao overran Atlético in the Basque country on Saturday, a team built at home, on organisation and running power, against one rebuilt at a cost of £36 million this summer.

Leicester City, whose balance sheet moved a mere £1.4 million in the same months, feel they hold one trump card. It is Pontus Kaamark, their Swedish defender. Once again, he will meet Juninho,

the Brazilian whom he suppressed over two games when City defeated Middlesbrough to win the Coca-Cola Cup in May — and thus qualify for the UEFA Cup.

Juninho has transferred to Atlético for £12 million. Undoubtedly, Kaamark will attempt to follow his every footstep again, though he said yesterday: "It demands great concentration, and the problem is Madrid have several Juninhos."

Do they? In fact, they have no other player quite like him, although they paid almost an equivalent sum to Juventus for the big centre forward Christian Vieri. Juninho attempts to find the space behind Vieri and Kiko — a Spaniard, would you believe, whose deft control is remark-

able in so big a front-runner. Behind them, Milinko Pantic, a Yugoslav like the Atlético coach, Radoy Antic, is the preferred playmaker.

Yet, if the fire burns from Steve Walsh right through Neil Lennon to Emile Heskey, the Madrid team can be stretched. From set-pieces, Leicester may be able to expose José Molina, a solid goalkeeper whose wanderings off his line were undone by Clarence Seedorf, of Real Madrid, who chipped him from 45 yards in the opening game of the Spanish season.

Nevertheless, ultimately, Madrid's quality should expunge Leicester's high-octane endeavour.

LEICESTER CITY (probable): 3-1-4-2: K. Keller — S. Walsh, M. Elliott, S. Prior — P. Kaamark — M. Izet, M. Lennon, G. Parker, S. Guppy — J. Marshall, E. Heskey.

Villa draw strength from lesson of last season

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN BORDEAUX

ASTON Villa's tame exit from the first round of the UEFA Cup last season, when they lost on the away goals rule to Helsingborgs IF, still rankles with their manager, Brian Little. As the plot unfolded and Helsingborgs clung to a decisive 0-0 draw in the second leg in Sweden, Little's side appeared powerless to halt the inevitable. It was an abject display of impotence bordering on incompetence.

A year on, at the same stage of the same competition, Villa will not make the same mistakes again. They enter the first leg here against Bordeaux confident of emerging unscathed for the return at Villa Park in a fortnight.

"We went out last year without losing a game," Little said yesterday. "It was silly, a crazy situation, and I'm sure it won't happen again."

"When we went 1-0 up in the first leg, we panicked and thought we needed more. We tried to force the pace when we really didn't need to." Helsingborgs equalised and that proved to be enough to take them through.

Villa have recovered some self-respect after opening the FA Carling Premiership season with four successive defeats. They have won their past two games and Little will keep the side that started in the 3-0 victory over Barnsley at Oakwell on Saturday. Bordeaux lie in fourth place in the French League first division, yet have conceded 13 goals in only seven matches. They will be without Johan Micoud, the midfield player, who has a suspension hanging over him from the club's last European campaign two years ago, when they were beaten by Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup final. Jean-Pierre Papin, 34, the former France international, leads their attack.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Borini — U. Ekeke, S. Skarston, G. Southgate — F. Nelson, I. Taylor, M. Drapeau, S. Grayson, A. Wright — D. Yorke, S. Collymore.





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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Patriots prove a point to Parcells

By OLIVER HOLT

THEY denied it all last week, of course, tried to say that it was not a grudge match, that it meant nothing more than any of the other regular season games. No one bought that, though. Everyone knew this was a clean-cut case of a former coach returning to the stadium that once adored him and trying to put one over on his old charges. In the end, Bill Parcells came up just short.

New England Patriots, the team that Parcells took to the Super Bowl against the odds in January and then left amid a welter of acrimony, maintained their 100 per cent record at the Foxboro Stadium in Massachusetts on Sunday night when they edged past his new team, New York Jets, 27-24 for their third successive victory of the new season.

After last season, when they won only one of their 16 games and became the laughing stock of the National Football League (NFL), Parcells has already transformed the Jets into more respectable performers. Against the Patriots, they fought back from 24-17 down to tie the scores at 24-24 before a 34-yard field goal from Adam Vinatieri rescued New England in overtime.

Parcells, known across the United States by the nickname "Big Tuna", had effected a similar transformation in his four years at Foxboro, turning the Patriots from a losing side into one that went all the way through the play-offs. Much of the considerable preamble to the Super Bowl defeat to Green Bay Packers, though, was dominated by uncertainty about his future.

In the run-up to Sunday's game, Patriots fans wore T-shirts urging their players to "Can the Tuna" and "Grill the Tuna". After the Jets' defeat, Parcells refused, untypically, to get drawn into the slanging match. "I have left a lot of myself with this team," he said. "There are a lot of kids in that dressing-room that I am very fond of."

"I've been through lots of these big-game weeks and usually I can block the distractions out pretty well. There was never going to be a pleasant way to end it with New England, but now I have got a new job with the Jets. It isn't going smoothly, either. There are going to be some rough times here, but I expect that."

Drew Bledsoe, the Patriots' quarterback, did his best to heap the problems on Parcells

on Sunday. Bledsoe has made it plain that his mission this season is to do just as well without Parcells as they did with him last year, and so far he is showing every sign of succeeding. He threw two more touchdown passes yesterday to go with the eight he completed in the Patriots' first two victories.

The only other team to match the Patriots' start is unheralded Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who beat Minnesota Vikings 29-14 in Minneapolis. Tampa Bay's much-maligned quarterback, Trent Diller, threw two touchdown passes as the Buccaneers made their best start to a season for 18 years.

Denver Broncos, inspired by the continuing excellence of their quarterback, John Elway, kept their 100 per cent record in their second game, crushing St Louis Rams 35-14.



Parcells: new challenge

in the Mile High Stadium. Elway threw four touchdown passes to take the Broncos to the head of the American Football Conference western division.

It was a good day, too, for another veteran quarterback, Steve Young. The San Francisco 49ers' leading player, back among the starters after yet another lay-off after suffering his third concussion in ten months, threw three touchdowns in his team's 33-7 win over hapless New Orleans Saints.

Young, whose injuries last season prevented the 49ers from making a concerted challenge for the Super Bowl, shrugged off five sacks as he completed 18 of 21 passes for 220 yards. His performance pushed suggestions about retirement that he had been contemplating himself, into the background for a few more weeks at least.

Breakfast of champions

Tom Hibbert is there as Frank and Frankie try to put some snap, crackle and pop into a campaign for healthier eating

What does a heavy-weight boxer eat for breakfast? Sixteen plump steaks and another plump steak for pudding.

What does a Flat jockey eat for breakfast? Why, nothing at all (a bite of Ryvita at the most, possibly). Because he has his heavy weight to think about.

These popular beliefs were poo-pooed, shown up as misconceptions, as horse-person Frankie Dettori and former pugilist Frank Bruno turned up at breakfast time in London to plug Kellogg's National Breakfast Week, an attempt to put health-giving cereal into the bows of every youngster of the nation rather than, as Big Frank (who is no stranger to HP Sauce) put it, "all those disgusting hamburgers".

For breakfast, Dettori eats All Bran. Bruno favours cornflakes with bananas. That's official. They made an unlikely pair as they sat side by side on a sofa doing their bit for the press and sponsorship. Bruno was big and verbose and all lustrous guffaws, which are his trademark. If they still made Carry On films, Frank would be a natural.

When I asked him if it was difficult for a boxer to keep his weight up, he replied that there was only one thing he needed to "keep up" and there was no problem there, bur, bur. Frankie was a ventriloquist's dummy by comparison. Only dummies are allowed to speak sometimes, if only to say "gottle of geer".

The boxer did all the talking. He embraced the little man saying: "We are not gay" and told me that Harry Carpenter was useless when it came to breakfast because "Arty puts warm milk on his cornflakes, which makes his glasses steam up".

Frankie attempted a smile and then Frank went into compassionate mode as he crossed himself and said that we should all eat a proper breakfast, is one of the Kellogg's persuasion, to make sure that the tragedies in the news of late never happen again.

"I didn't quite understand his point, but well... "You can call me Frank or the doctor, or Frank the faith healer, just look at this man." At this, he put a large arm around the reluctant neck of Dettori and said: "He is a top sportsman. I am a has-been. I am a has-been. That's why I need money, bur, bur."

Frankie looked uncomfortable. Muttered something about eating All Bran again.



Dettori and Bruno clown around in a little and large double-act, with the jockey as straight man

"You eat All Bran" big Frank guffawed. "You are a liar. Do you remember the breakfast you had when you rode those seven winners at Ascot, I asked Frankie. Yes he did."

"I ate All Bran. It has fibre. And what do you think Mike Tyson eats for breakfast, Frankie? Human flesh?"

"Hur, bur. He gave me a frightening glance. "Don't you think, because you are an intelligent fella, that we should be talking about Kellogg's?"

"I think cold milk is better than hot milk on All Bran," Frankie then interjected in an attempt to defuse a potentially disquieting situation.

"Hur, bur" Frank went.

"My main man Frankie hasn't grown up yet but he has just got married. Needs all the cereal he can get, know what I mean?"

Nudge, nudge. Wink as well.

If National Breakfast Week manages to convince the youth of our nation to eat more healthily—which seems rather unlikely—all well and good. But let us face facts: it is going to take a lot more than a self-confessed has-been boxer and a jockey (no matter how stylish) to turn our children away from their egg McMuffins.

Anyway, as the Michael Douglas character almost said in *Wall Street*: "Breakfast is for wimps..."

They made an unlikely pair, sitting on the sofa

DRUGS IN SPORT

Steroid misuse shows increase

By JOHN GOODBODY

POSITIVE tests for anabolic steroids in the United Kingdom have risen by 80 per cent over the past year. Although only two per cent of about 4,000 samples analysed under the drugs-testing programme run by King's College, London, proved positive—about the same as the previous year—anabolic agents were discovered in 27 of the samples as against 15 in the previous 12 months.

The findings are especially surprising because there is a suspicion that some offenders have switched to substances which cannot yet be detected.

When the United Kingdom Sports Council (UKSC), which administers the scheme at a yearly cost of more than £1 million, releases the latest

statistics today, the use of hormone drugs, particularly among weightlifters and powerlifters, will show a sharp increase. This may help to make the possession of anabolic steroids illegal, unless used under medical supervision.

"We are focusing on those areas of sport where there is still determination to use drugs and where some competitors are obviously not good enough without them," Michele Verroken, director of the UKSC's ethics and anti-doping directorate, said yesterday. The total number of doping offences discovered during the period under review was 82, compared with 84 in 1995-96.

"It is a great testament to the integrity of our competitors that 98 per cent tested negative," Verroken said. "This is a result that confirms that the vast majority of them are competing drug-free."

Tomorrow, leading sportsmen and sportswomen will attend a national seminar on drugs and sport in London. Surveys have shown that many of them want life bans for anyone caught taking hormone drugs, although the trend internationally is to reduce penalties.

Six weeks ago, the International Amateur Athletic Federation reduced the length of suspension for a first offence from four years to two, because of the fear of legal actions from banned athletes.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

GUDERIAN

(a) Guderian was the architect of the Wehrmacht's victories in France in 1940 and the USSR in 1941. As commander of XIX Panzer Corps, he broke through at Sedan. The German High Command put a brake on his progress, which saved the BEF. He led the 2nd Panzer Army into the USSR, encircling Kiev and Uman. He was leading the drive towards Moscow, which on orders from Hitler was diverted southwards. After various ups and downs, he was dismissed in March 1945.

BAJADA

(a) In the South West of North America, a descent or slope formed by aggradation and composed of rock detritus. *Geological Journal*, 1909: "The Bajada: extending down from the rock surfaces are flanking detrital slopes built up by terrestrial deposition."

GAMALEX

(a) A cameo, also a stone bearing natural markings resembling pictorial or ornamental figures. Formerly valued as a talisman. From the Arabic word. "As Talismans are images or figures made by art under certain constellations, so Gamalex are such figures, found so wrought by nature, held to be of greater virtue, being therefore worn by some persons."

GARUM

(a) A sauce made from fermented and rancid fish, strangely much used as a relish by the Ancient Romans. In the 16th and 17th centuries in Britain the smelly stuff was more sensibly recommended as a medicine for horses. "The famous pickle of the ancients, called Garum, was made of the gills and blood of the Tunny."

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1 Rd7:1 Kd7 2 Rh7: Kf8 3 Qg7 checkmate

TELEVISION CHOICE

A TV watchdog with teeth

Private Investigations

BBC2, 7.30pm

This is a new series based on an old idea, of giving members of the public camcorders and inviting them to pursue their hobby-horses for their satisfaction and our entertainment. There is an echo of Channel 4's *Citizen's Arrest*, except that here the people are on their own without the benefit of a professional presenter. Ian Batey's gripe is that his car was wrongly clamped. He boldly tackled a £70 private company involved, which demanded a £70 release fee, and compares notes with fellow victims. Margaret Gibbins vents her anger at the cruel treatment of animals on their way to market, but Barry Thomas's complaint is against himself. He reckons his business is suffering because he has such a poor memory. The world memory champion and a hypnotist are called in to help. But is the problem simply the incurable one of advancing years?

Marc Bolan: Dandy in the Underworld

Channel 4, 9.00pm

The 20th anniversary of the death of the T. Rex singer is marked by a profile-cum-tribute high on affection and admiration. Friends and fellow band members evoke a flamboyant talent who moved, not without a few bumps along the way, from the hippy underground to the commercial mainstream and enjoyed a huge following from male and female alike. At its peak in the early 1970s the T. Rex band was selling 28,000 singles a day. "Nowadays you are lucky if you can sell 28,000 a week," observes Tony Visconti, Bolan's producer. But there was a difficult time when Bolan suddenly went out of favour and became a tax exile, only to bounce back triumphantly. *Memories* of a more personal kind come from his partner, Gloria Jones, and their son, Rolan. She was driving the car when Bolan died. She and Rolan describe how the accident affected their lives.

Black Wednesday

BBC1, 10.25pm

Political pundits trying to explain John Major's humiliating election defeat have tended to point to the events of September 1992 as the start of an irreversible decline in Conservative fortunes. It



Margaret Gibbins vents her anger (BBC)

was when Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was forced to come before the television cameras and explain that, despite all the assurances he had given to the country, the pound was being withdrawn from the exchange-rate mechanism. Effectively, after a day when billions were lost to speculators and the Government had twice raised interest rates in an attempt to shore up the pound, the story is pieced together with the help of those who helped to write it.

Seinfeld

BBC2, 11.15pm

Returning in tandem with the inferior *Larry Sanders Show*, Jerry Seinfeld's sitcom about an unattached New Yorker, played by himself, continues to impress as a cleverly constructed show which derives its humour from the context rather than smart one-liners. Tonight's episode manages to sustain three plotlines and to interweave them so smoothly that you hardly notice the need to be godparents to a couple's new baby. Suffice to say that the jokes are about circumcision, though not so that anybody could take offence. As usual, Seinfeld tops and tails the narrative with a stand-up routine. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Relative Values

Radio 4, 7.20pm

The prospect of a programme about the relationship between one member of a family and another is likely to induce groans, for usually we are obliged to listen to too many people talking about each other. This series has been very different, and much the better for it. Michael McDonnell, the presenter, has avoided the usual traps and instead highlighted people who find themselves in unusual situations. Tonight, in the last in this series, he meets Stanley and Linda Allen, Stanley, a lorry driver, was held in a French jail for 12 weeks after he was found in the sealed trailer he had just hitched up at Calais. He was innocent, but the battle to prove it had effects on family relationships which are still becoming apparent a year later.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Lard with the Breakfast Show in Manchester. 9.00am Simon Mayo. 12.00pm Mary Anne Hobbes. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat. 2.00pm Nicky Campbell. 4.00pm Kevin Greaves. 6.15pm Newsbeat. 6.30pm Evening Session with Steve Lamacq. The Gully. 7.00pm Radio 1. 8.00pm Radio 1. 9.00pm Radio 1. 10.00pm Radio 1. 11.00pm Radio 1. 12.00am Radio 1.

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy. 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30am Ken Bruce. 11.30am Jimmy Young. 1.30pm Debbie Thorne. 3.00pm Ed Stewart. 5.00pm Johnnie Walker. 7.00pm Carl Davis. 8.00pm Wayne Marshall's Organ Spectacular. Wayne Marshall talks to the Master of the Laidback. 9.00pm The Bridge. 10.00pm The Bridge. 11.00pm The Bridge. 12.00am The Bridge.

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme. 9.00am The Magazine with Brian Hayes. 12.00pm Middy with Mar. 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five. 4.00pm Nationwide with John Inverdale. 7.00pm News. Extra with Valerie Anderson. 7.30pm The Tuesday Match. Mark Pougatch interviews action from the Coca-Cola Cup second round, first leg. Plus the UEFA Cup first round, including Celtic v Liverpool, and news from the Scottish Challenge Cup semi-finals. 10.00pm News. Extra with Valerie Anderson. 11.00pm News. Extra with Valerie Anderson. 12.00am News. Extra with Valerie Anderson.

TALK RADIO

6.30am The Talk Radio Breakfast Show with Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin. 8.00am Scott Chisholm. 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly. 2.00pm Tommy Boyd. 4.00pm Dhyane with Peter Dinkley. 7.00pm Anne Robinson. 8.00pm James Whale. 1.00pm Ian Collins.

A Room With A View

Radio 2, 9.30pm

This is the kind of programme that comforts those who feel the traditional notion of being British has been lost in a blizzard of change. John Walters is the presenter, and who better than this folksy eccentric of the airwaves to front a programme about beach huts? Specifically, these are at Southwold in Suffolk, where walking along the seashore is "like going back to the fifties". The huts per se are not very interesting, but some of the people who inhabit them certainly are, including the local woman, a painter, who brought a hut to use as a studio in which she paints other huts. The hut owners talk lovingly, not least the man who thinks that "heaven will be an antidote after Southwold". Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday. 6.30am Europe Today. 7.00am News. 7.15am The World Today. 7.30am Adopting Attitudes. 8.00am News. 8.15am The World Today. 8.30am News. 8.45am News. 9.00am News. 9.15am News. 9.30am News. 9.45am News. 10.00am News. 10.15am News. 10.30am News. 10.45am News. 11.00am News. 11.15am News. 11.30am News. 11.45am News. 12.00am News. 12.15am News. 12.30am News. 12.45am News. 1.00am News. 1.15am News. 1.30am News. 1.45am News. 2.00am News. 2.15am News. 2.30am News. 2.45am News. 3.00am News. 3.15am News. 3.30am News. 3.45am News. 4.00am News. 4.15am News. 4.30am News. 4.45am News. 5.00am News. 5.15am News. 5.30am News. 5.45am News. 6.00am News. 6.15am News. 6.30am News. 6.45am News. 7.00am News. 7.15am News. 7.30am News. 7.45am News. 8.00am News. 8.15am News. 8.30am News. 8.45am News. 9.00am News. 9.15am News. 9.30am News. 9.45am News. 10.00am News. 10.15am News. 10.30am News. 10.45am News. 11.00am News. 11.15am News. 11.30am News. 11.45am News. 12.00am News. 12.15am News. 12.30am 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Sinful indulgence of idleness on parade

Sloth is such an endlessly fascinating subject, what with its endless potential for confusion with a small, greyish-brown South American mammal, that you could obviously write a very long essay about it if you could be the slightest bit bothered. Sloth is certainly a subject that fascinates Howard Marks, who has down-shifted his post-penal life into a low gear. It is so low that watching him on television makes you feel as if you are pressing forward on the remote control in the hope that it will somehow quicken his movements to normal human speed.

Not that you can blame Marks for resorting to a life of genteel idleness. The one time he did do something that could be called entrepreneurial and profitable it landed him in jail for nine years for smuggling marijuana.

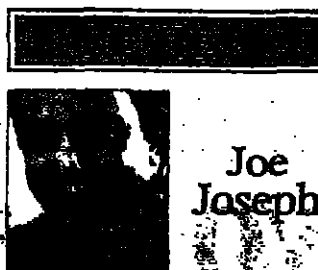
Nor was that the first time that diligence had slapped him in the face: having worked so hard to get a place at Oxford, he arrived at university only to find that he was to be stuck for three years with Edward Currie as a contemporary. Then, just as he was beginning to enjoy his life of idleness, Channel 4 suddenly plucked him out to present the first of its series on *Sereas Sins*. The one on sloth.

"I know society considers me a sinner and that I've lived a wasted life," he said at a dictation speed that doesn't demand any knowledge of shorthand to take down. "It sees me as slothful, idle and stupid. I'm not. I'm just a sloth. The worst of sinners in today's world, obsessed with being a sloth. And why did it become a deadly sin at all?"

It's sweet to know that Marks does get exercised about something, even if that something turns out to be sloth. But it is hard to tell, as Marks ambled around town, chatting to priests and other who might be in a position to explain to him why he is so wrong to believe that "what we all need is a little more sloth in life", where his re-encounter with his Oxford contemporary was supposed to be satirical.

Currie — who looks like the sort of house-proud woman who might turn the ends of her toilet-rolls over to form a neat triangle, just as they do in certain hotels — couldn't understand why Marks had tossed aside his glittering post-Oxford prospects.

"How much of it was just being plain idle and trying to find an easy way to make money?" Edward Currie asked. It was like a headmaster trying to get to the bottom of why young Charlie, a normally hard-working pupil in Form 3B, had suddenly started behaving in a disruptive fashion. It was pretty rich from someone who chose to spend years in Parliament, where



Joe Joseph

he made a name for himself by making barking-bass about eggs-and-salmonella while grinning at the camera. "I was a very happy man," he said. "I was a very happy man." "I was a very happy man," he said. "I was a very happy man."

Even the painters of the Forth Rail Bridge are getting more slothful. Everyone believes that the

bridge is being painted constantly, that no sooner do they finish at one end than they have to start all over again at the other. But according to Short Stories (Channel 4), the bridge hasn't seen a lick of paint for 20 years. And nobody's even noticed. I mean, have you?

Not that it is all that surprising that they tackle the job so rarely. The painters have to swing like a pendulum in the rain and gales from one of the bridge's spans until they reach a bit of steelwork that needs touching up. As working environments go, it is as cozy as a wet sleeping bag. But despite the coziness, some of the painters actually die. Or maybe they have just been poorly understood what they were saying: some of these workmen have, such treacherous accents that they are given subtitles. EYE BOYE, of Kailtrack Scotland, says the bridge to bits.

You know why? "Because it's the only place in the world like it."

It makes you think: Maybe there's someone out there who loves Sloth, too.

A Prince Among Men (BBC1), a sitcom starring Chris (Brittas) Barrie as a vain northern superstar footballer turned wheeler-dealer entrepreneur, has the feel of a clever, elongated sketch. We wait to see if it is a running gag. We also wait to see if it accelerates the booming fashion for punning titles.

The Prince of the title is Gary Prince, former footballer. ITV has just brought us *Noah's Ark*, about a vet called Noah.

It can't be long before we have *The Judgment of Solomon*, about a High Court judge called Solomon Jones.

Dr Sebastian Thyme will play the lead in the medical drama *Thyme Heals All Wounds*. As for Currie Is An Acquired Taste, maybe we saw the pilot for that one last night.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (57061)

7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (9803387)

9.05am Referendum Call: Wales Live phone-in on devolution as the people of Wales prepare to vote on their own parliament. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (6996622)

9.55am Kilroy (1) (5718245)

10.35am Change That (1) (728871)

11.00am News (1) regional news and weather (4007239)

11.05am The Really Useful Show Consumer issues (1) (5110158)

11.35am Room for Improvement (2781158)

12.00am News (1) regional news and weather (6333061)

12.05pm Call My Bluff World game (9848852)

12.35pm Going for a Song (9751413)

1.00pm News (1) and weather (75142)

1.30pm Regional News (1) (7555239)

1.40pm The Weather Show (9750362)

1.45pm Neighbours (1) (7745432)

2.10pm Quincy Starring Jack Klugman (1) (1047121)

3.00pm Through the Keyhole (4177)

3.30pm Playdays (8497887) 3.50pm Peter Pan and the Pirates (8400351) 4.10pm Rugrats (4901177) 4.30pm Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars (985516) 5.00pm Newsround (1) (9227852) 5.10pm Byker Grove (1) (5296448)

5.35pm Neighbours (1) (1) (958245)

6.00pm News (1) and weather (871)

6.30pm Regional News (351)

7.00pm Holiday Memories: Esther Rantzen and her daughter revisit Zimbabwe; Nigel Havers in his favourite Italian resort of Bordighera; and partially-sighted Peter Jensen travels to Maine (1) (830178)

7.30pm EastEnders: Things are not looking good for George Palmer and Tiffany is plagued by an unwelcome visitor (1) (535)

8.00pm Match of the Day — Live: Celtic v Liverpool. Live coverage from the UEFA Cup first leg clash at Parkhead, Glasgow. With commentary by John Motson. (23676055)

9.55pm News (1) Regional News and weather (544238)

10.30pm Black Wednesday Tim Pigott-Smith on the financial meltdown in 1992 that was to become known as Black Wednesday (1) (774608)

WALES: 10.30pm Referendum '97 (774608)

11.20pm Black Wednesday (23676055)

12.10pm FILM: Footloose (308233) 1.20pm FILM: Beverly Hills Brats (2132307) 3.15pm Weather (9550165)

11.20pm Footloose (1984) with Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer, John Lithgow, Christopher Penn and Dianne Wiest. A rebellious, hip-swinging student from the city moves to a small religious town where he clashes with a fire-and-brimstone preacher who has banned dancing for its immorality. Directed by Herbert Ross (1) (830178)

1.00pm Beverly Hills Brats (1988) With Peter Billingsley and Martin Sheen. A lonely rich kid engineers his own kidnapping to get parental attention. Directed by Dimitri Solovits (1) (830178)

2.25pm Weather (1708543)

Video Plus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to find the programme you want to watch on a Video Plus+ handset. Tip in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to watch. Video Plus+ (1) (830178)

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BBC2

6.00am O U: Overture — Plus Ça Change (4708887) 6.25 English, English Everywhere (4710822) 6.50 Rural Life (518882)

7.15am Saturday Breakfast News (1) (4585142)

7.30am Saturday's Adventure (1) (6758191) 7.55am Blue Peter (1) (1) (5688887) 8.20am Ode to Dole (1) (7306852) 8.30am Rupert (1) (7473142) 8.35am Teletubbies (1) (1333887) 8.50am Harry and the Hendersons (1) (1) (2557055) 9.25am Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (1) (1) (3128171) 9.45am Rocky Star (1) (1) (8921974) 9.50am Cartoon (8846239) 10.00am Teletubbies (32933)

10.30am In Old Montana (1939, b/w) Musical western, with Fred Scott and Jean Carmen (29245)

11.30am The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (2500) 12.00pm Sea Hear (1) (1) (63063) 12.30pm Working Lunch (20245) 1.00pm Fiddly Foodie Bird (1) (8301593) 1.10pm Craft Hour (846868) 2.10pm Wildlife on Two (3160678) 2.40pm News (1) (1012968) 2.45pm Match of the 1970s (1) (1) (358571) 3.25pm News (1) (4065852) 3.30pm Real Rooms (1) (429) 4.00pm Ready, Steady, Cook (254) 4.30pm Gold, Gold, Gold (9094887) 4.55pm Esther: Divorces (5297016) 5.30pm Today's the Day (500) 6.00pm Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (1) (979622) 6.25pm Heartbeat High (1) (887868)

7.10pm The O Zone Elton John, Louise (340516) 7.30pm Private Investigations

Members of the public address issues close to their heart (1) (177)

8.00pm Return to the Home Front The revival of wooden houses on 24 hours (1) (830178)

8.30pm Looking Good Label-shopping on a budget (1) (9055)

9.00pm Have I Got Old News for You (1) (4535)

9.30pm Holding On Bernard's temper boils over (50500)

10.30pm Newswatch (1) (201887)

11.15pm Seinfeld Comedy about single life in New York with Jerry Seinfeld (1) (114535)

11.35pm The Larry Sanders Show Return of the American comedy set on an American TV chat show, Roseanne and Chevy Chase guest (1) (994933)

12.00pm Weather (432433)

12.05pm Walking on Thin Ice Bad weather hampers the explorers' expedition (1007365)

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FOOTBALL 44

Barcelona win
Robson's battle of
divided loyalties

SPORT

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1997

SAILING 45

Smith determined
to remain
a world apart



Clubs decide championship should cling to its traditional format

Counties reject two divisions

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE intransigence of county cricket has once again held radical reform at bay. Even Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, a businessman as acute as any in the country, has failed to shift the enduring parochialism of the game. His own passionately stated support for a two-division county championship yesterday fell foul of the familiar fears that run rife in the shires.

By 12 votes to seven the First Class Forum of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) decided to keep the county championship precisely as it is — essentially as it has always been. The fact that the remainder of the blueprint for the future of cricket, *Raising the Standard*, was almost totally endorsed could not dispense the clear disappointment on the face of MacLaurin, chairman of the board and author of the plan.

"I am sad that we have not gone to two divisions," he admitted. "I told the counties this morning that this was my personal view and I spent some time telling them why. But cricket is an ultra-conservative game and changes are not happening as quickly as I would like. We will give this system three years and see what happens."

Lord MacLaurin, although looking strained and sounding terse, said that he intended to stay on as chairman. "I have got 15 months to complete. I would hope to see that through before they throw me out," he said grimly. When pressed as to whether he would stand again, he said ambiguously: "Well, I talk about it in a year's time, when the names go on the nomination form."

No matter the deeper and broader benefits that will unarguably accrue from his document, especially at the junior and recreational end of the game, it will be thought to have failed in its principal aim — the intensifying of competitive cricket and public interest in the county championship. MacLaurin himself must shoulder some of the blame. He took a calculated risk by originally proposing a convoluted system of three equal



MacLaurin, left, and Lamb are grim-faced after the rejection of the main plank of their reform plan. Photograph: André Camara

conferences, reasoning that by accepting a climate of change the counties would be amenable to a subsequent move to the promotion and relegation he had always favoured. He had not anticipated that they would react so swiftly that the two-division option would become immediately viable.

Instead, the board's executives, in consultation with David Morgan, chairman of the FCF, came up with their "enhanced status quo" — a championship unchanged, other than in the impenetrable "incentive" of the top eight qualifying for another spurious one day competition. Once

that was on the table, the outcome was pre-ordained.

Yesterday, only the six counties who stage Test cricket, plus Worcestershire, voted for two divisions. County members may rejoice. All those who believe English cricket must modernise of wither will despair.

It can no longer be a game run by and for the over-sixties, and unless that is realised England will be left further and further behind.

Sounding weary and baffled, Lord MacLaurin said: "It's very difficult to gauge the way county chairmen think, a

lot of the time." But sounding simply disingenuous he claimed that yesterday's outcome was "slightly better than the three conferences". If this was so, why bother with the whole worthily protracted business.

Lamb explained that many of the counties had expressed concern over the effect of international calls on their chances of attaining or retaining first-division status. Some clubs had even threatened that the system would prevent them from releasing Test players from the best of the selectors.

Stubbornly, Lord MacLaurin added: "I have no doubt that we will have promotion and relegation in my time. They could have thrown the whole lot out today and put us back to square one. They haven't done that. For them, they've made a big step forward."

The advance as agreed includes a new national one-day league, played in two divisions and beginning in 1999, and several improvements to the NatWest Trophy, including an increase to 60 competing teams and the staging of the final a week earlier.

Violence leaves clubs facing expulsion from Heineken Cup

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE rugby unions of Wales and France will be expected to hold urgent inquiries into the violence that broke out over the weekend in the Heineken Cup matches in Pau and Brive. However, the violence was not confined to the pitch and yesterday four Pontypridd players were questioned by French police after a clash with Brive players in a bar late on Sunday night.

While the organisers of the competition, European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC), await written responses from Brive and Pontypridd after the Welsh club's one-point defeat, a heavy cloud will hang over the whole competition. If consideration is given to suspending any club, then it must be done soon before the competition resumes on Saturday.

Yet the clubs themselves must also take action for the sake of the competition, which, in only its third season, has become the flagship of northern-hemisphere rugby below international level. The disturbing reputation that Pau have brought with them was verified during their game with Llanelli on Saturday, while Brive, the cup-holders, and Pontypridd, the Welsh League champions, both had players sent off during Sunday's game and subsequently banned for a month.

One of those players, Dale McIntosh, the No 8 from New Zealand who has made two appearances for Wales, was involved in a bar-room brawl during which three France internationals — Christophe Lamaison, Philippe Carbonneau and David Venditti — were injured. Their prospects of playing against Bath on Saturday appear slim, while Pontypridd have to collect themselves for their away game with Scottish Borders — if, indeed, they remain in the competition after the allegations made against McIntosh and Phil John, the hooker.

Roger Pickering, the ERC chief executive, has asked for the report of the match commissioner at Brive, Roland Patachon, and would do well to do the same for the Pau v Llanelli game, such was the level of foul play over which the Irish referee, Leo Mayne,

chose to dismiss nobody. Pickering is also likely to consider the whole system of referee appointments for the competition.

There can be no doubt that Pontypridd and their supporters in Brive were bitterly disappointed by the controversial last-minute try awarded by Eddie Murray, the Scottish official, which deprived them of victory and that disappointment may have contributed to the subsequent brawl.

Bernard Lapasset, president of the French rugby federation, called for Pontypridd to be ejected from the Heineken Cup "if collective responsibility can be proved", but he would do well to ensure that everything in his own house is in order. Pau, for example, sullied the game



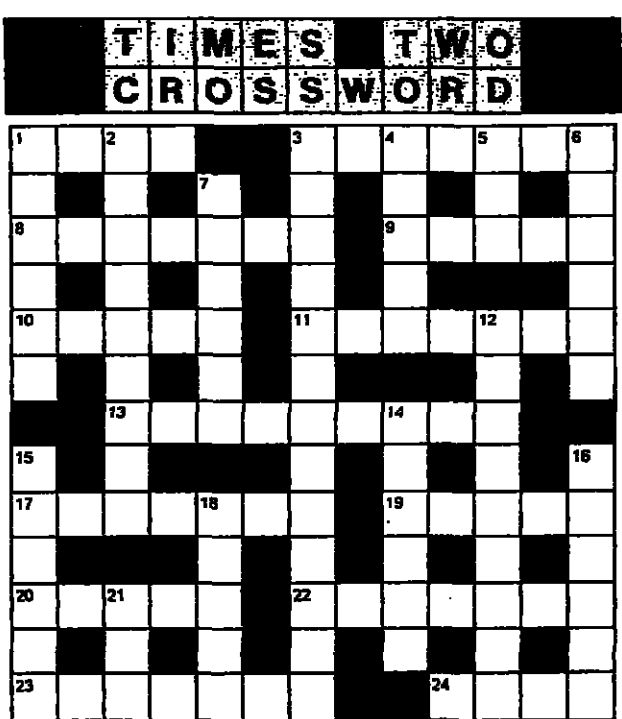
McIntosh sent off

with their play at Llanelli last season and when they played Leicester, who accused them of eye-gouging.

"I would expect both the two clubs — Brive and Pontypridd — and their respective unions to make inquiries of their own," Pickering said. "Any action taken must be done before the coming weekend."

Nor can the fledgling professional sport afford a compromise solution: there is enough concern over crowd figures and marketing as it is without television showing the worst of the on-field violence and scores being settled later in a manner that could lead to civil actions by the parties concerned.

Players in dock, page 3



No 1200

ACROSS

- 1 Fastener: a trot, punch (tick-10)
- 3 Restrain, prevent (7)
- 4 Dried fruit: a ruler's wife (7)
- 9 Of the moon (5)
- 10 When ignorant armies clash (Arnold) (5)
- 11 Things for new baby (7)
- 13 The corolla (9)
- 17 French officer, falsely convicted 1894 (7)
- 19 Unaccompanied (5)
- 20 Anaesthetic, solvent liquid (5)
- 22 Driving impulse (7)
- 23 (Go) rampaging (7)
- 24 Knock senseless (4)

DOWN

- 1 Gambling house (6)
- 2 Unreadable (9)
- 3 Awkwardly placed (2,1,5,5)
- 4 Tree; Buddy —, rock-and-roller (5)
- 5, 21 Epic chariot-race film, 1959 (3,3)
- 6 Little tower of castle (6)
- 7 Delicate colour, such a crayon (4)
- 12 Retaliation (3,3,3)
- 15 Spirit from pressed grapes (6)
- 15 Adjective modifier (gram-10)
- 16 Decrease (6)
- 18 To counterfeit smidgy (5)
- 21 See 5

SOLUTION TO NO 1199

- ACROSS: 7 Apple 8 Parquet 9 Dispute 10 Hotel
11 Liar 12 Division 13 Scenario 16 Alms 19 False 21 Amnesty 22 Enslave 23 Pious
- DOWN: 1 Handel 2 Apostate 3 Rebus 4 Archaic 5 Suit 6 Stolen 8 Precipitate 13 Illusion 14 Lateral 15 Suffer 17 Shyest 18 Snipe 20 Lose

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